HITACHI
Instruction Manual

8

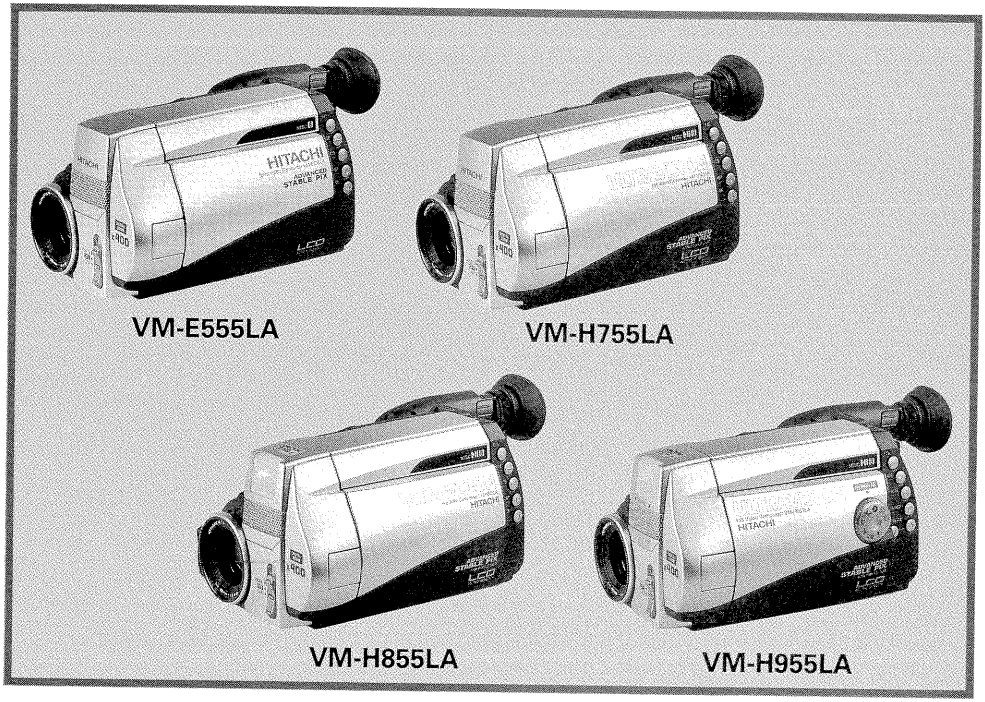
8mm Video Camcorder

VM-E555LA

Hi8

Hi8 Video Camcorder

VM-H755LA
VM-H855LA
VM-H955LA



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Thank you for buying a Hitachi product. Please take time to become familiar with the manual and how it is set up. Keep it handy for future reference.

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Important Information

For Your Safety

The CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch turns the camcorder on and off, leaving the date/time feature unaffected. If the unit is to be left unattended for a long period of time, turn the camcorder off and close the lens door.

WARNING : TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

WARNING : TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, USE THE RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES ONLY.

The camcorder and AC adaptor have the following caution marks.

CAUTION

RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK
DO NOT OPEN

CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT OPEN.
NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE.
REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.

WARNING: TO PREVENT FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, MATCH WIDE BLADE OF PLUG TO WIDE SLOT, AND FULLY INSERT PLUG.

Identifications of caution marks

This symbol warns the user that uninsulated voltage within the unit may have sufficient magnitude to cause electrical shock. Therefore, it is dangerous to make any kind of contact with any inside part of this unit.

This symbol alerts the user that important literature concerning the operation and maintenance of this unit has been included. Therefore, it should be read carefully to avoid any problems.

Precautions

WARNING: Many television programs and films are copyrighted. In certain circumstances, copyright law may apply to private in-home videotaping of copyrighted materials.

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

The liquid crystal display (LCD) panel is made by highly precise technology. More than 99.99% of its picture elements (pixels) are effective, but some (less than 0.01%) may appear as colored bright dots. This does not indicate a fault as the LCD panel stretches the limits of current technology.

Information for VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA

This camcorder can use 8 and Hi8 video cassettes. It automatically determines the loaded cassette is 8 or Hi8 and records and plays it back correctly.

Warning: This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct by one or more of the following measures:

— Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
— Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
— Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
— Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Caution to the user: Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the manufacture could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

"**Note to CATV system installer:** This reminder is provided to call the CATV system installer's attention to Article 820-40 of the NEC that provides guidelines for proper grounding and, in particular, specifies that the cable ground shall be connected to the grounding system of the building, as close to the point of cable entry as practical".

Notes

- This unit uses 8mm video format cassettes.
- It records and plays back in the SP mode (14.3 mm/sec).
- It cannot record and play back in the LP mode (7.2 mm/sec).
- VM-H955LA uses a Hi-Fi stereo sound system. When a tape recorded by this camcorder is played by a conventional 8mm camcorder, monaural sound is output. When a tape recorded by a conventional 8mm camcorder is played this machine, monaural sound is output.

MOISTURE

Avoid operating your camcorder immediately after moving it from a cold place to a warm, humid place. Give the camcorder 2 to 3 hours to stabilize in the ambient conditions of the surroundings before inserting a cassette. When moved from a cold place to a warm, humid place, moisture may condense on the head drum inside the machine. This moisture could cause the tape to stick to the headwheel and damage the headwheel or tape.
When a small amount of moisture is sensed, "TAPE" flashes in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. Remove the cassette and set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to OFF, then wait for about one hour.

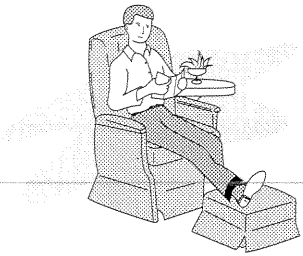
IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

In addition to the careful attention devoted to quality standards in the manufacture of your video product, safety is a major factor in the design of every instrument. But, safety is your responsibility too.

This page lists important information that will help to assure your enjoyment and proper use of a Video camcorder and accessory equipment. Please read it carefully before operating your video product and keep it in a handy place for future reference.

INSTALLATION

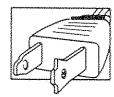
1 Read and Follow Instructions — All the safety and operating instructions should be read before the video product is operated. Follow-all operating and use instructions.



2 Retain Instructions — The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

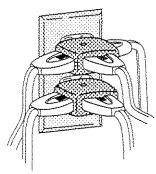
3 Heed Warnings — Comply with all warnings on the video product and in the operating instructions.

4 Polarized Plug — This video product is equipped with a polarized alternating-current line plug (a plug having one blade wider than the other). This plug will fit into the power outlet only one way. This is safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug fully into the outlet, try reversing the plug. If the plug should still fail to fit, contact your electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. To prevent electric shock do not use this polarized plug with an extension cord, receptacle or other outlet unless the blades can be fully inserted without blade exposure. If you need an extension, use a polarized cord.



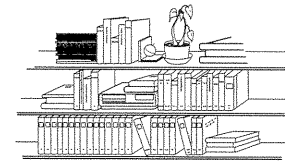
5 Power Sources — This video product should be operated only from the type of power source indicated on the marking label. If you are not sure of the type of power supply to your home. consult your video dealer or local power company. For video products intended to operate from battery power, or other sources, refer to the operating instructions.

6 Overloading — Do not overload wall outlets and extension cords as this can result in a risk of fire or electric shock. Overloaded AC outlets and extension cords are dangerous, and so are frayed power cords, damaged or cracked wire insulation and broken plugs. They may result in a shock or fire hazard. Periodically examine the cord and have it replaced by your service technician if appearance indicates damage or deteriorated insulation.



7 Power-Cord Protection — Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the appliance.

8 Ventilation — Slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for ventilation to ensure reliable operation of the video product and to protect it from overheating. These openings must not be blocked or covered. The openings should never be blocked by placing the video product on a bed, sofa, rug, or other similar surface. This video product should never be placed near or over a radiator or heat register. This video product should not be placed in a built-in installation such as a bookcase or rack unless proper ventilation is provided or the video product manufacturer's instructions have been followed.



9 Attachments — Do not use attachments unless recommended by the video product manufacturer as they may cause hazards.

Caution: Maintain electrical safety. Powerline operated equipment or accessories connected to this unit should bear the UL listing mark or CSA certification mark on the accessory itself and should not have been modified so as to defeat the safety features. This will help avoid any potential hazard from electric shock or fire. If in doubt, contact qualified service personnel.

10 Water and Moisture — Do not use this video product near water — for example, near a bath tub, wash bowl, kitchen sink, or laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, and the like.

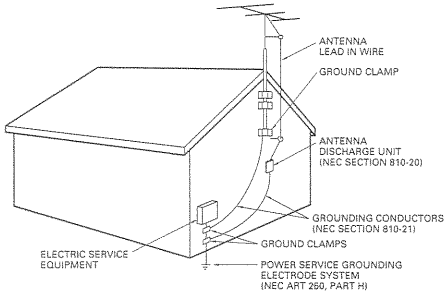
11 Accessories — Do not place this video product on an unstable cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table. The video product may fall, causing serious injury to a child or adult, and serious damage to the appliance. Use only with a cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table recommended by the manufacturer, or sold with the video product. Any mounting of the product should follow the manufacturer's instructions, and should use a mounting accessory recommended by the manufacturer.

11A An appliance and cart combination should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause the appliance and cart combination to overturn.

S3125A

12 Outdoor Antenna Grounding — If an outside antenna or cable system is connected to the video product, be sure the antenna or cable system is grounded so as to provide some protection against voltage surges and built-up static charges. Section 810 of the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA No. 70, provides information with respect to proper grounding of the mast and supporting structure, grounding of the lead-in wire to an antenna discharge unit, size of grounding conductors, location of antenna-discharge unit, connection to grounding electrodes, and requirements for the grounding electrode. See example below.

EXAMPLE OF ANTENNA GROUNDING


ANTENNA LEAD IN WIRE
GROUND CLAMP
ANTENNA DISCHARGE UNIT (NEC SECTION 810-20)
GROUNDING CONDUCTORS (NEC SECTION 810-21)
GROUND CLAMPS
ELECTRIC SERVICE EQUIPMENT
POWER SERVICE GROUNDING ELECTRODE SYSTEM (NEC ART 250, PART H)

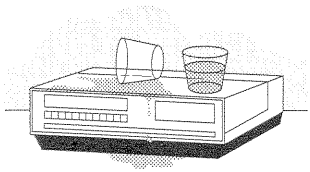
NEC — NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

13 Power Lines — An outside antenna system should not be located in the vicinity of overhead power lines or other electric light or power circuits, or where it can fall into such power lines or circuits. When installing an outside antenna system, extreme care should be taken to keep from touching or approaching such power lines or circuits as contact with them might be fatal. Installing an outdoor antenna can be hazardous and should be left to a professional antenna installer.

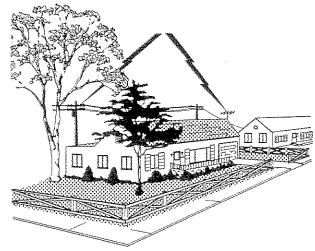
USE

14 Cleaning — Unplug this video product from the wall outlet before cleaning. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners. Use a damp cloth for cleaning.

15 Object and Liquid Entry — Never push objects of any kind into this video product through openings as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short-out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock. Never spill liquid of any kind on the video product.



16 Lightning — For added protection for this video product during a lightning storm, or when it is left unattended and unused for long periods of time, unplug it from the wall outlet and disconnect the antenna or cable-system. This will prevent damage to the video product due to lightning and power-line surges.



SERVICE

17 Servicing — Do not attempt to service this video product yourself as opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltage or other hazards. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.

18 Conditions Requiring Service — Unplug this video product from the wall outlet and refer servicing to qualified service personnel under the following conditions.

a. When the power-supply cord or plug is damaged.
b. If liquid has been spilled, or objects have fallen into the video product.
c. If the video product has been exposed to rain or water.
d. If the video product does not operate normally by following the operating instructions. Adjust only those controls that are covered by the operating instructions. Improper adjustment of other controls may result in damage and will often require extensive work by a qualified technician to restore the video product to its normal operation.
e. If the video product has been dropped or the cabinet has been damaged.
f. When the video product exhibits a distinct change in performance — this indicates a need for service.

19 Replacement Parts — When replacement parts are required, have the service technician verify that the replacements he uses have the same safety characteristics as the original parts. Use of replacements specified by the video product manufacturer can prevent fire, electric shock or other hazards.

20 Safety Check — Upon completion of any service or repairs to this video product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks recommended by the manufacturer to determine that the video product is in safe operating condition.

21 Heat — The product should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other products (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

Before You Begin

Any problems that occur as a result of any of the following conditions will not be covered by our warranty.

- Be careful that no water, dust or sand enters the camcorder and all accessories.
- When you shoot at a scene which contains an extremely bright object such as the sun or a light source, a bright vertical bar may appear in the picture.
  Your camcorder is functioning properly, but the solid-state pickup device (C.C.D) usually causes this as an inherent characteristic. Try to avoid shooting an excessive bright object directly.
- Be sure not to leave the camcorder in a place where the temperature exceeds 140°F (60°C), or the pickup device may be damaged.
  Dangerous includes:
  - Inside a car with the windows closed and in direct sunshine.
  - Near heating appliances.
- Do not leave the viewfinder lens and the liquid crystal display (LCD) screen facing sunlight for a prolonged period, or the phosphorescent surface of the cathode ray tube and the LCD panel may be damaged.

Read This First

To guide you, we've included:

- An "Important Information" section containing important cautions for your family's safety as well as instruction for getting your video camcorder ready to use. Please read and understand this section thoroughly before moving on.
- A "Getting Started" section to familiarize yourself with the controls and prepare you for recording.
- A "Basic Techniques" section to allow you to use your video camcorder quickly and confidently before advancing to the more sophisticated features of the Hitachi VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA.
- "Advanced Techniques" to help you with some of the exciting, sophisticated features of the Hitachi VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA. We hope you will take the time to learn about these functions since they have been designed for you. You can use the video camcorder without reading this section.
- A "General Maintenance" section to help keep your purchase in good repair.

We want this manual to be as helpful as possible, so it includes two easy ways to find the information you need:

- A quick index for the information you use most often (this page).
- A detailed table of contents directing you to specific information quickly (page 8).

Get to know your video camcorder by using this manual, and get to know Hitachi. We appreciate your business.

Quick Index

Charging the Battery 16
Setting the Date and Time 26
Making a Basic Recording 28
Zooming 30
Playback 32
Using the Wireless Remote Control 52
Dubbing from Camcorder to VCR 56

Features

- Easy to use
- Color liquid crystal display (LCD) monitor with speaker
- Active screen
- Perfect power (Lithium-ion battery)
- Active light (for VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA)
- 100X zoom ratio
- 400X digital zoom (with instant zoom)
- Digital effect
- Stable pix (Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS))
- Fade in/fade out
- Instant zoom
- Recorded date search
- Automatic title recording
- Video effects
- Multi playback (PAL60 conversion)

■ Types of differences

	VM-E555A	VM-H755LA	VM-H855LA	VM-H955LA
System	8	Hi8	Hi8	Hi8
Audio	monaural	monaural	monaural	stereo
LCD monitor size	2.5-inch	2.5-inch	3.0-inch	3.5-inch
Active light	No	No	Yes	Yes
Program AE	Auto	Auto	Auto	Auto/Mode select

- This instruction manual shows the illustrations for the VM-H955LA.

With this camcorder you can view the picture being recorded or the playback picture whether on the LCD monitor or in the viewfinder. Opening or closing the LCD monitor switches the picture to appear on the LCD monitor or in the viewfinder. The following text describes the operation assuming that the viewfinder is used as a major monitor device.

Table of Contents

Important Information 2
For Your Safety 2
Important Safeguards 4

Before You Begin 6
Read This First 6
Features 7

Getting Started

Components and Accessories 9
Identifying Controls 10
Loading Clock and Remote Control Batteries 15
Clock Battery 15
Remote Control Batteries 15
Charging the Battery 16
Removing the Battery Pack 17
Reference of Charged Level 17
Charging Time 17
Operating Time 17
Checking the Battery's Charge 18
Camcorder Power Sources 19
Using Battery Pack 19
Using the AC Adaptor 19
Using a Car Battery 19
Inserting and Removing Cassettes 20
Inserting a Cassette 20
Removing a Cassette 20
Protecting Recorded Material 20
LCD Monitor 21
Opening the LCD Monitor 21
Adjusting the Brightness of the LCD Screen 21
Range in which the LCD Monitor can be moved 21
Range in which the LCD Monitor can be moved 21
Active Screen 22
Adjusting the Electronic Viewfinder 22
Eyepiece Adjustment 22
Adjusting the Hand Strap 23
Attaching the Shoulder Strap 23
Remaining Tape 24
Using the Linear Time Counter 24
Display in Viewfinder or on LCD Monitor 24
Switching the Display 25
Setting the Date and Time 26

Basic Techniques

Making a Basic Recording 28
Using Instant Review 28
Using Auto Focus 29
Using Manual Focus 30
Using the Power Zoom 30
Using the Digital Zoom 30
Using the INST. ZOOM (Instant Zoom) Button 31
Using Macro 31
Playback 32
Using Still 33
Using Forward and Reverse Search 33
Playing Back Your Recording on Your TV 34
Connecting to a Television with a VCR Attached 34
Connecting to a Television with Audio In and Video In Jacks 36
Connecting to a Television without Audio In and Video In Jacks 38
Video Effects in Playback Mode 39
Multi Playback 40

Advanced Techniques

Changing the Angle of the LCD Monitor when Recording 42
Date Recording 43
Using the PROGRAM AE Dial (only for VM-H955LA) 44
Recording by Selecting Recording Mode 44
Adjusting Playback Pictures 45
Digital Effects Recording 46
Activating Digital Effects Recording 47
Using Digital Fade 48
Using the Electronic Image Stabilizer 50
Using Quick Edit 50
Attaching the Optional Wide or Tele Converter Lens 50
Date Search 51
Using Memory 51
Using the Wireless Remote Control 52
Creating and Recording a Title 52
Selecting Stored Title (Prememo) 53
Creating a Title 54
Recording Title on a Tape in the Camcorder 55
Recording a Title while Transferring a Tape 55
Dubbing from the Camcorder to a VCR 56
Simple Programmable Edit 58
Programming the Remote Control for the VCR 59
Operation 60
Using Audio/Video Dubbing 63
Using the Active Light (only for VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA) 64
Demonstration Mode 64

General Maintenance

Cleaning the Camcorder Heads 65
Cleaning the Lens and Picture Tube of the Electronic Viewfinder 65
Periodic Maintenance 66
Troubleshooting 66
Specifications 68
Accessories Add Excitement 70

Getting Started

This section guides you through the initial preparation of the camcorder. None of these processes are complex. Set aside some time, relax, and familiarize yourself with this quality instrument.

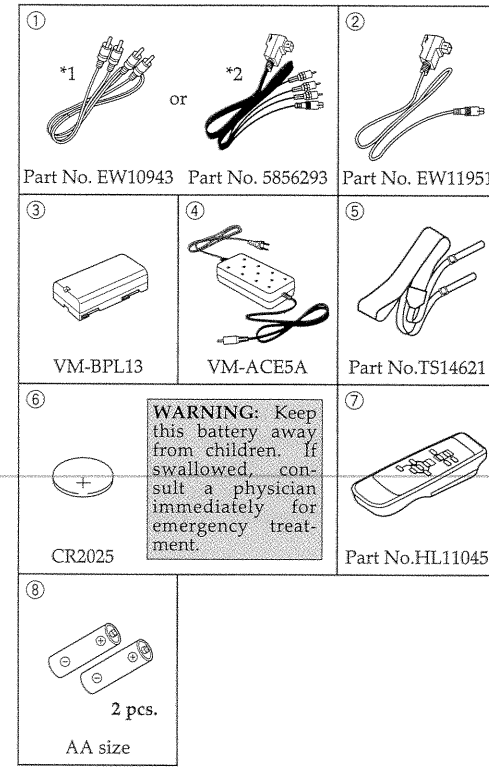
Enjoy getting to know all about your Hitachi 8mm camcorder. The more comfortable and familiar you are with the machine and its features, the more you can make it do for you. Let's get started!

It is crucial that you read and understand all the safety instructions before you begin. If you haven't read the safety instructions yet, please take the time to do so now.

Components and Accessories

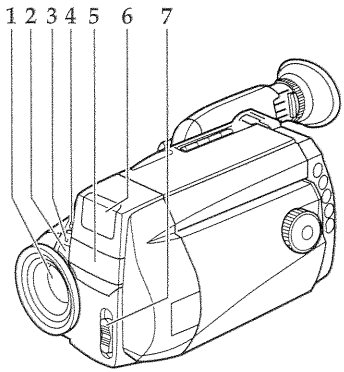
Check that you have all the following components and accessories before proceeding.

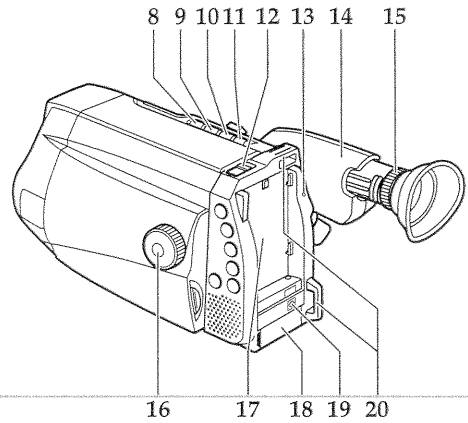
1. Audio/Video output cable
   *1 Cable for VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA
   *2 Cable for VM-H955LA
2. 20-pin S cable (only for VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA)
3. Battery pack
4. AC adaptor
5. Shoulder strap
6. Battery for date/title
7. Remote control
8. Batteries for remote control



■ Optional RF Converter Unit

If you wish to connect this camcorder to a television that does not have audio/video input jacks you will need to use the optional RF converter unit model VM-RF86A(R).





1. Lens Door

The door will automatically open when the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to "CAM". Setting the switch to "OFF" will close the door.

2. Infrared Receiver

The area where infrared signals from the wireless remote are received. Aim the remote control to this area for best results.

3. Record Indicator

This indicator flashes when the camcorder is recording.

4. Active Light Switch (for VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA)

When this switch is set to AUTO, the active light turns on or off automatically according to the brightness of the object. When switch is set to ON, the active light turns on. Set the switch to OFF to turn the light off manually. ("Using the Active Light", p64)

5. Microphone

Sensitive to sounds coming from the direction in which the camera is pointed.

6. Active Light (for VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA)

When the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is in the CAM position, the active light is turned on and off automatically or manually depending on the position of the Light switch. Turn the active light off after use. ("Using the Active Light", p64)

Note: The active light will not turn on when the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to VIDEO.

Note: If there is no cassette in the camcorder, or if a recording prevented cassette is inserted with the active light switch set to AUTO, the light will automatically go out after 5 minutes.

7. CAM/OFF/VIDEO Power Switch

This switch turns the camcorder on and off. Set the switch to CAM for camera recording, and to VIDEO for playback. Hold down the small red button as you slide the switch to CAM or VIDEO. You do not need to hold down the red button to slide the switch to OFF.

8. F.FWD Button

Use this button to fast forward tapes or for visual search. During visual search the camcorder fast forwards at approximately 9 times normal playback speed. During fast forward, press and hold this button to visually scan the tape forward at 19 times the normal playback speed. ("Using Forward and Reverse Search", p33) Also use this button to set date and time and create a title ("Creating and Recording a Title", p52).

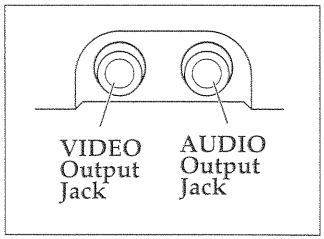
9. PLAY Button

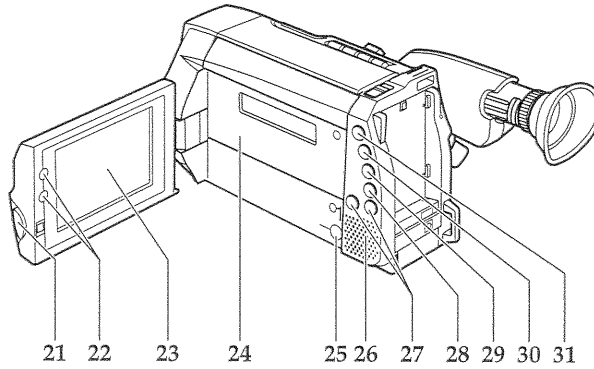
Use to play back recorded tapes and create a title. ("Creating and Recording a Title", p52)

10. REW/REVIEW Button

Use this button to fast rewind tapes or for visual search. During visual search the camcorder rewinds at approximately 7 times normal playback speed. During rewind, press and hold this button to visually scan the tape backwards at 17 times the normal playback speed. ("Using Forward and Reverse Search", p33) Also use this button to set date and time and create a title ("Creating and

18 Behind the cover





Recording a Title", p52). Furthermore, use this button to review the last few seconds of the tape you are recording.

11. STOP Button

Use this button to stop playback, fast forward, or reverse. Also use this button to set date and time and create a title. ("Creating and Recording a Title", p52).

12. BATTERY Release Lever

Releases the battery attached to camcorder.

13. Charge Indicator

When the battery is being charged, this indicator will flash or light to show the charged level as a reference ("Charging the Battery", p16).

14. Electronic Viewfinder

15. Diopter Control

To use the electronic viewfinder, pull the eye cup all the way, and then turn this control for your optimum focus adjustment ("Eyepiece Adjustment", p22).

16. PROGRAM AE Dial (only for VM-H955LA)

Use this dial to select the exposure that suits the subject condition. Turn the dial to select the desired recording mode: you can record scenes with the exposure according to the mode ("Using the PROGRAM AE Dial", p44).

During playback, this dial can also be used to adjust the finer details of playback pictures. (See page 45 for details.)

17. Power Supply Attachment Section

Attach the battery here ("Charging the Battery", p16).

18. AUDIO/VIDEO Output Jacks (Behind the jack cover)

Use this jack to connect the camcorder to a VCR or television ("Playing Back Your Recording", p34, 36, "Dubbing from the camcorder to a VCR", p56).

- Connect the yellow plug of the audio/video cable to the yellow jack (VIDEO OUT) and the white plug to the white jack (AUDIO OUT).

19. DC IN Jack

Plug in the AC adaptor here to charge a battery or power the camcorder from AC outlet. In addition, connect the optional car battery cord to this jack, in which case, you will need a DC cord (optional).

20. Shoulder Strap Slots

Attach the shoulder strap here.

21. OPEN Button

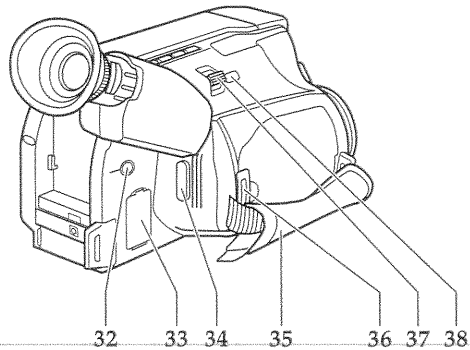
Push this button to open the LCD monitor.

22. Bright Control Buttons

Use this to adjust the brightness of the LCD monitor screen ("Adjusting the Brightness of the LCD Screen", p21).

23. LCD Monitor

You can view the pictures as they are being recorded and play them back immediately after recording on the LCD screen ("LCD Monitor", p21).



24. Cassette Holder

A power source must be connected to the camcorder before a cassette can be inserted or removed.

25. EJECT Button

Press this button to open the cassette holder. A power source must be connected before cassettes can be inserted or removed though the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch may be set to OFF ("Inserting and Removing Cassettes", p20).

Note: The EJECT button is inoperable unless the LCD monitor is completely open.

26. Speaker

You can listen to the recorded sound.

Note: No sound is heard when the LCD monitor is closed.

27. FOCUS/VOL. (volume) Control Buttons

When the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to CAM, these buttons will be the focus control buttons. Press them simultaneously to select manual or automatic focusing. To control focus manually ("Using Manual Focus", p30), press the ▲ or ▼ button to bring the subject into focus. When manual focus has been engaged, "FOCUS" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.

When you are viewing playback pictures on the LCD monitor with the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch set to VIDEO, these buttons can be used to control the volume of the built-in speaker ("Playback", p32).

28. DATE/DISP. Button

When the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to CAM, this button can be used as the DATE or DISPLAY button: set the date and time, and select the date display you want to record ("Setting the Date and Time", p26 and "Date Recording", p43).

In the VIDEO mode, the DATE/DISP. button is used as the DISPLAY button ("Display in Viewfinder or on LCD Monitor", p24).

Note: Be sure to insert the clock battery before setting the date and time or creating a title.

29. EFFECTS Button

Use this button to digitally process the image you are going to record or the playback image. During recording, you can select among six modes: 16x9, negative/positive, X400 digital zoom, half-mirror, mosaic, or art ("Digital Effects Recording", p46).

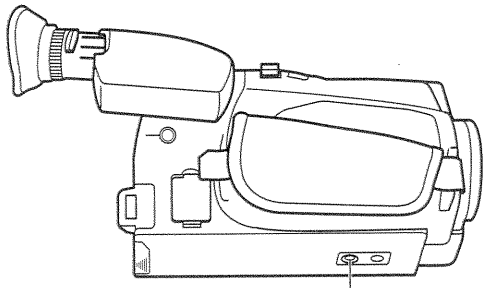
During playback, you can select among three modes: 16x9, art, or sepia ("Video Effects in Playback Mode", p39).

30. FADE Button

The FADE button features six modes; white fade, wipe fade, mosaic fade, art fade, zoom fade and black-and-white fade ("Using Digital Fade," p48).

31. EIS (Electronic Image Stabilizer) Button

EIS corrects slight shaking of an image ("Using the Electronic Image Stabilizer," p50).



32. PAL60 Button (Multi Playback)

Use this button when connecting the camcorder to a PAL TV which handles PAL60 mode signal and has vertical sync adjustment circuitry for 60Hz.

Notes:

- Make sure "PAL60" is not displayed when connecting the camcorder to an NTSC TV for playback, or monitoring the playback picture on the camcorder's LCD monitor. If "PAL60" is displayed in the above cases, no color will appear in the picture.
- The PAL60 button is effective during playback only.
- See TV instruction manual for details about setting of PAL60 mode.
- Depending on the state of the tape recorded, the PAL60 button may not operate normally.
- Tape recorded on PAL system cannot be played back.
- The PAL60 mode will be released when the camcorder is turned off.

33. Audio/Video Output Jack (Behind the jack cover)

For VM-E555LA: Use this jack to connect the camcorder to a television ("Connecting to a Television without Audio In and Video In Jacks", p38).

For VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA: Use this jack to connect the camcorder to a VCR or television ("Playing Back Your Recording on Your TV", p34, 36, 38, "Dubbing from the Camcorder to a VCR", p56).

34. Start/Stop Button

When the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is in CAM press this button to start recording. When pressed a second time the camera pauses.

During playback use this button to stop the tape temporarily. Pressing a second time resumes normal playback.

35. Hand Strap

Refer to page 23.

36. Clock Battery Compartment

Pull the battery holder and install the clock battery (provided). (See "Loading Clock and Remote Control Batteries" on page 15.)

37. Power Zoom Control

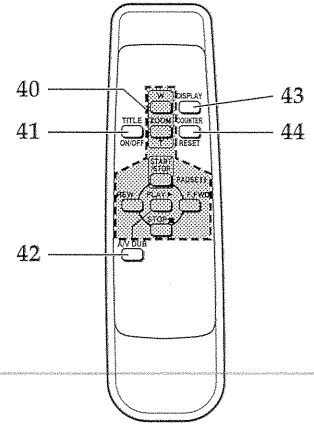
Use this to zoom automatically ("Using the Power Zoom", p30).

38. INST. ZOOM (Instant Zoom) Button

Use this button to magnify the image being recorded 1.5 times.

39. Tripod Mounting Threaded Socket

Use this threaded socket to mount the camcorder to a tripod.



40. Recorder's Remote Control

The shaded buttons on the remote control have the same functions as the corresponding buttons on the camcorder.

41. TITLE ON/OFF Button (only on the remote control)

Use this button to create and record titles for your tapes ("Creating and Recording a Title", p52).

42. A/V DUB Button (only on the remote control)

Use this button to record new audio and video over existing audio and video.

43. DISPLAY Button

Use this button to select the viewfinder or LCD monitor and TV display ("Display in Viewfinder or on LCD Monitor", p24). This button can be used instead of the DATE/DISP. button on the camcorder in the VIDEO mode.

44. COUNTER RESET Button (only on the remote control)

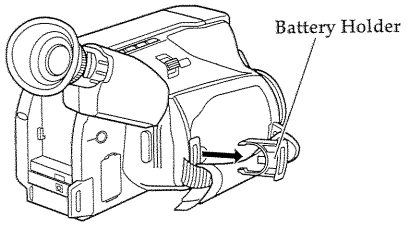
Use this button to reset the linear time counter to "0:00:00".

Loading Clock and Remote Control Batteries

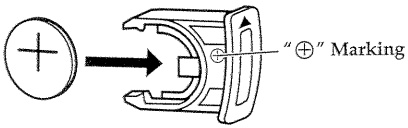
● Clock Battery

Install the battery to prevent misplacing it.

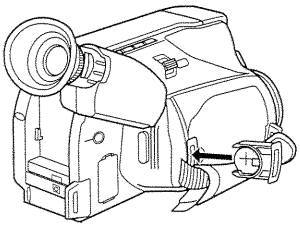
1 Pull out the battery holder using such as coins.



2 Insert the battery with the "+" terminal facing up.



3 Fully insert the battery holder into the camcorder.



WARNING: KEEP THE BATTERY AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS.

IF SWALLOWED CONSULT A PHYSICIAN IMMEDIATELY FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT.

Note: Replace the battery with 3V micro lithium cells such as Maxell CR2025 or its equivalent.

Note: Dispose of battery safely in accordance with local laws. Do not dispose of in fire.

Note: Do not short circuit the battery.

Note: Do not take apart the battery.

Note: Do not hold the battery with the metallic tweezers.

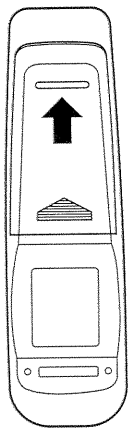
Note: Do not recharge the battery.

Note: Keep the battery in a dark, cool, dry place.

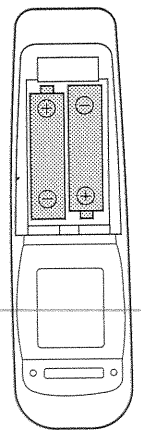
● Remote Control Batteries

The remote control requires two "AA" batteries.

1 Slide the cover in the direction of the arrow to remove it.



2 Install batteries.
Be careful to install with correct polarity.



3 Re-attach the cover to the remote control.

Cautions on the batteries

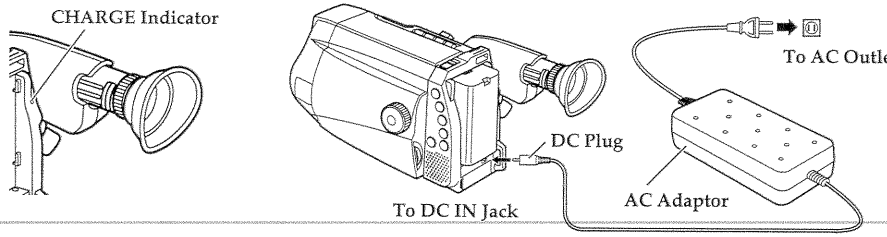
- Do not use the old and new batteries at the same time.
- Do not mix batteries of different types.
- Do not short, take apart or dispose of batteries by throwing them into a fire.
- When liquid leaks, wipe it off completely and then insert new batteries.

Charging the Battery

The first step is to set the battery for charging. To charge the battery, attach it to the camcorder, and connect the VM-ACE5A AC adaptor. Charge the battery at a temperature range of 50°F (10°C) – 86°F (30°C) to prevent damage to the battery.

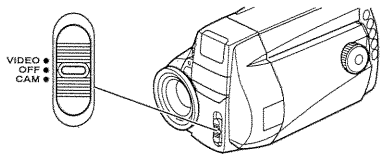
Note: This camcorder operates with a lithium ion battery such as VM-BPL13/VM-BPL27/VM-BPL30/VM-BPL60.

Note: We cannot be responsible for any malfunctions of the camcorder which occur when you use battery packs other than those specified.



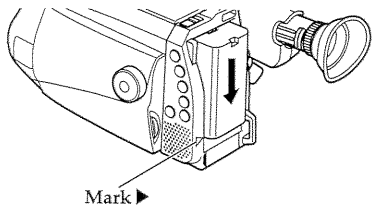
Charge the battery on a flat surface this is free of vibration.

1 Make sure the CAM/OFF/VCR switch is set to OFF position.



2 Attach the battery pack to the camcorder.

- Align the bottom of the battery with mark ▶ on the camcorder so that the battery fits into the grooves. Then slide the battery downward, as illustrated.



Note: Always attach a battery only by the procedure described here. Attaching a battery forcibly could damage it.

3 Plug the AC adaptor power cord into an AC outlet.

Make sure that the wide blade fits into the wide slot. If it doesn't fit, try reversing it. If the blades still do not fit fully into the outlet, either contact an electrician to replace your obsolete outlet, or use a polarized cord or outlet accessory.

4 Connect the AC adaptor DC plug to the DC IN jack of the camcorder.

Charging will start within five seconds. During charging, the CHARGE indicator of the camcorder will flash or light to give you a reference of the charged level.

Note: If the CHARGE indicator flashes once every two seconds, the battery could be defective.

Note: The CHARGE indicator will not light at all when the AC adaptor is defective.

Note: You can use the battery before it is completely charged.

Note: When charging is complete, the CHARGE indicator on the camcorder will light. IF the fully charged battery is removed and then reattached, the camcorder will again enter the charge mode, and the CHARGE indicator will flash. It will take a few minutes for the camcorder to enter the charge complete status.

Note: Charging at low temperatures will decrease charge capacity.

5 After charging is complete, disconnect the AC adaptor DC plug from the camcorder.

6 Disconnect the AC plug from the AC outlet.

7 Detach the battery from the camcorder.

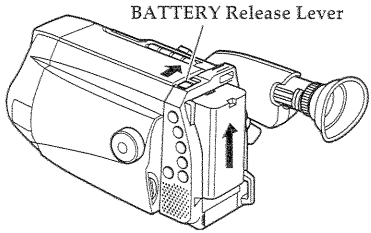
Note: Always remove the battery from the camcorder after use.

Note: Charging is not done when the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch of the camcorder is set to CAM or VIDEO. However, if recording pause continues for more than 5 minutes in the CAM mode, the camcorder will automatically turn off, after which charging will start.

Note: If the DC plug is disconnected when the battery is attached and the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to CAM or VIDEO, the camcorder will turn off once, but then automatically turn on again. Note that the battery will discharge if the camcorder is left as is.

● Removing the Battery Pack

Slide the BATTERY release lever in the direction of the arrow and hold it; then slide the battery to the upper side and remove.



● Reference of Charged Level

You can know the approximate charge level of battery by observing how the CHARGE indicator of camcorder flashes or lights:

Charge level	CHARGE indicator
0-50% charge	Flashes once at approx. one-second intervals.
50-75% charge	Flashes twice at approx. one-second intervals.
More than 75% charge	Flashes three times at approx. one-second intervals.
Full charge	Steady light

● Charging Time

Charging \ Battery	VM-BPL13	VM-BPL27	VM-BPL30	VM-BPL60
Full charge	170 min.	300 min.	330 min.	590 min.
75% charge	100 min.	190 min.	210 min.	410 min.

● Operating Time

The camcorder operating time depends on how often you turn power on/off and use start/stop and zoom.

Continuous Recording

EVF: when using the viewfinder
LCD: when using the LCD monitor

Camcorder \ Battery		VM-BPL13	VM-BPL27	VM-BPL30	VM-BPL60
VM-E555LA	EVF	160 min.	330 min.	370 min.	760 min.
	LCD	120 min.	260 min.	290 min.	630 min.
VM-H755LA	EVF	160 min.	330 min.	370 min.	760 min.
	LCD	120 min.	250 min.	280 min.	580 min.
VM-H855LA	EVF	150 min.	320 min.	350 min.	730 min.
	LCD	110 min.	240 min.	250 min.	520 min.
VM-H955LA	EVF	140 min.	300 min.	320 min.	720 min.
	LCD	110 min.	230 min.	240 min.	510 min.

Typical Recording

EVF: when using the viewfinder
LCD: when using the LCD monitor

Camcorder \ Battery		VM-BPL13	VM-BPL27	VM-BPL30	VM-BPL60
VM-E555LA	EVF	90 min.	190 min.	200 min.	420 min.
	LCD	70 min.	150 min.	170 min.	380 min.
VM-H755LA	EVF	90 min.	190 min.	200 min.	420 min.
	LCD	70 min.	140 min.	160 min.	330 min.
VM-H855LA	EVF	80 min.	180 min.	190 min.	410 min.
	LCD	60 min.	130 min.	140 min.	290 min.
VM-H955LA	EVF	70 min.	160 min.	180 min.	400 min.
	LCD	60 min.	120 min.	130 min.	280 min.

Notes on the Battery

- It is recommended that the battery always be left in the discharged state when not in use, and charged before you use it.
- Avoid storing a fully charged battery, and do not store it in a place where the temperature is high; this will damage the battery.
- Do not operate the battery at temperature below 14°F (–10°C) or above 113°F (45°C). At extremely low temperatures operation time decreases, while at high temperature the battery may be damaged.
- Do not attach a hot battery to the camcorder. Allow it to cool.

THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE THE BATTERY OR AC ADAPTOR.

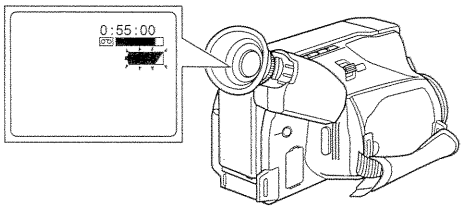
THROWING THE BATTERY INTO FIRE OR EXPOSING IT TO EXCESSIVE HEAT (ABOVE 140°F [60°C]) MAY CAUSE INJURY.

SHORTING THE BATTERY'S TERMINAL INCREASES RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRICAL SHOCK.

Checking the Battery's Charge

A battery charge indicator is located on the upper right corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor. One of six symbols displays when the battery is used.

Note: The battery charge indicator does not appear when the camcorder is powered by the AC adaptor.



This flashing symbol indicates a battery nearly out of power. Use an alternative power source or charge the battery before continuing to use the camcorder.

Knowing Remaining Battery Power Time

If you use the VM-BPL30 lithium-ion battery (optional) to power the camcorder, you can find-ing out how much camcorder operating time remains, with the battery.

The VM-BPL30 measures the battery consumption, calculates the remaining battery time, and displays it (in minutes) in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. Since the camcorder power consumption varies according to how frequently autofocusing or zooming is used, the displayed time may decrease or increase several minutes at a time, or may not change for some time.

Note: The remaining battery time will appear 10-15 seconds after the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to CAM; it will not appear in the VIDEO position.

Note: When the remaining time decreases to 5 minutes or less, the time display will disappear. We recommend that you replace the battery earlier.

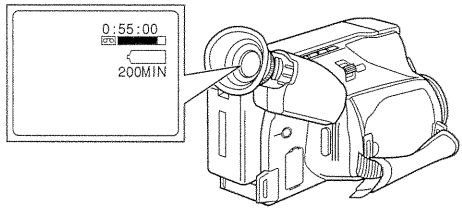
Note: If you connect the VM-BPL30 battery with the remaining battery time of 5 minutes or less, the time will not be displayed.

Note: If the correct remaining time does not appear, use up the battery attached to the camcorder, and then fully charge it.

Note: If you repeat charging and discharging the battery before using it up, the correct remaining time may not be displayed.

Note: If the battery is used at low temperatures, the actual operating time with battery will be substantially different from the displayed time, and the correct time may not appear.

Note: If the battery which has been used at low temperature is subsequently used at normal temperature, display of remaining battery time will be incorrect. For display of correct remaining time, fully charge the battery.



Note: The remaining battery time will not appear when you are recording an image of yourself, or the LCD monitor is put back to camcorder with its screen facing to the side.

Note: If you eject and reinsert cassette after the battery is discharged, power will shut off midway and the camcorder will stop. When the battery is discharged, immediately remove it from the camcorder and charge it again.

Note: When the VM-BPL30 battery is used, the battery charge indicator "▭" may not match the remaining battery time display (in minutes). In this case, refer to the remaining time display when using the camcorder.

To display the correct remaining battery time on camcorder

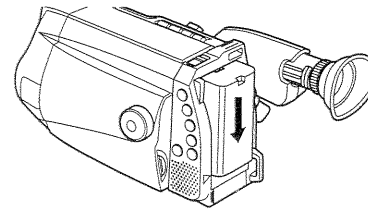
- Fully charge the battery before use.
- Turn the camcorder on and leave it pointing at a still subject for about 30 seconds. Do not move the camcorder during this time.
- If display does not change some time, open and close the LCD monitor while you are using the camcorder.

Camcorder Power Sources

You can use the charged battery pack, AC adaptor (provided) or car battery cord (optional) to power the camcorder. After use, be sure to remove the power supply.

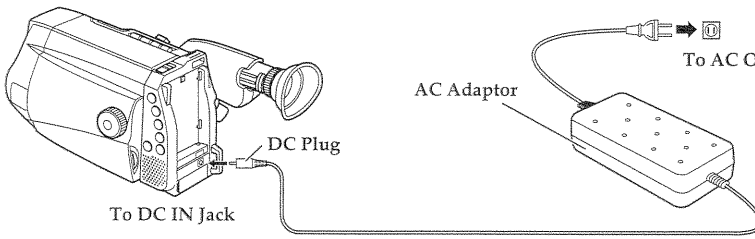
Using Battery Pack

1 Attach the charged battery pack to the camcorder. (See pages 16 and 17 for attachment and charging of battery pack.)



Using the AC Adaptor

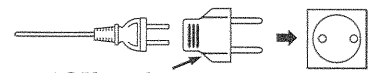
Please ensure that the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is in the OFF position whenever attaching or detaching any power supply (ie. battery, AC adaptor, etc.).



1 Plug the AC adaptor power cord into an AC outlet. Make sure that the wide blade fits into the wide slot. If it doesn't fit try reversing it. If you still cannot make fit the blades fully into the outlet either contact an electrician to replace your obsolete outlet, or use a polarized cord or outlet accessory.

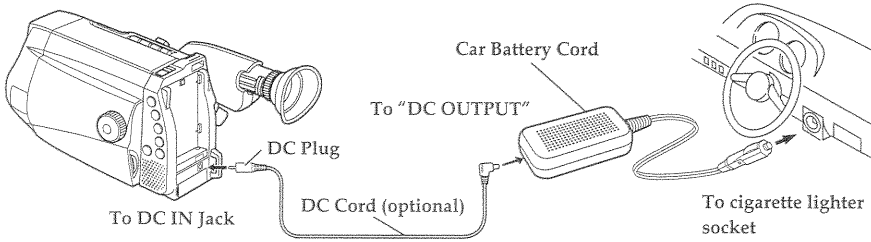
2 Connect the DC plug of the AC adaptor to the DC IN jack of the camcorder.

Note: The AC adaptor can be used around the world. An AC plug adaptor is required in some foreign countries. If you need one purchase it at your Hitachi distributor.



Using a Car Battery

The camcorder can be powered with a car battery by using an optional car battery cord (Hitachi VM-CC80A) to plug the camcorder into the car's cigarette lighter socket. Please ensure that the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is in the OFF position whenever attaching or detaching any power supply (ie. battery, AC adaptor, etc.).



1 Plug the car battery cord into the car's cigarette lighter socket.

2 Connect one end of the DC cord (optional) to the DC IN jack of the camcorder. Connect the other end of the DC cord to the DC OUTPUT of the car battery cord.

Note: Only use the car battery cord with cars having 12/24 volts negative ground system.

Note: You cannot use the car battery cord to charge a battery.

Inserting and Removing Cassettes

A power source must be connected before inserting or removing cassettes. Once connected, cassettes can be inserted or removed whether the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is on or off.

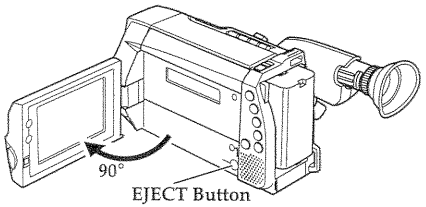
● Inserting a Cassette

1 Press the OPEN button to open the LCD monitor ("Opening the LCD Monitor", p21).

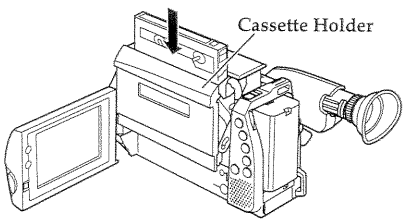
2 Press the EJECT button. " EJECT" will appear on the LCD monitor, and the cassette door will open automatically.

Caution: Do not touch the cassette door when a cassette is being loaded or unloaded. If your finger is caught by the metal section of holder, it could be cut.

Note: Cassette cannot be inserted or ejected unless the LCD monitor is open: Open the monitor until it is at right angles to the camcorder.

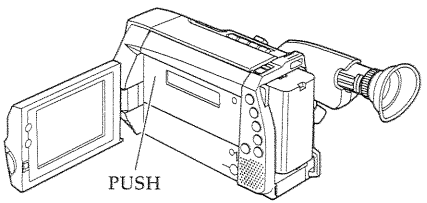


3 Place the cassette in the cassette holder so that the transparent window faces away from the body of the camcorder and the sprockets toward the body of the camcorder.



4 Push the cassette door, which is embossed PUSH, until it "clicks" into place. The camcorder automatically closes.

Note: The camcorder will automatically close the top of the cassette compartment. Do not press the door down, or you may damage your camcorder.



Note: If "TAPE" flashes in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, remove the cassette and check that the tape is not damaged, is not slack or no dust adheres to it, etc. After making sure that there is no abnormality, reinsert the cassette. If "TAPE" reappears, see "Troubleshooting" on page 67.

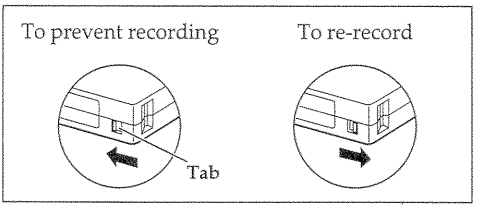
Note: If the tape is near the winding end, it may take longer to load it.

● Removing a Cassette

Press the EJECT button. " EJECT" will appear on the LCD monitor, and the cassette door will open automatically. Remove the cassette.

● Protecting Recorded Material

Protect 8mm cassettes from accidental erasure by sliding the tab on the side of the cassette toward the opposite side until the tab is completely visible. Slide the tab in the opposite direction, until the tab disappears, to record on the cassette again.



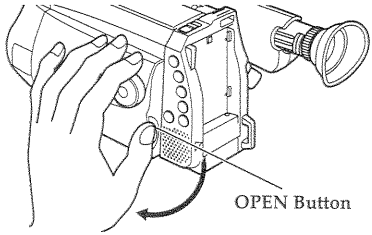
LCD Monitor

When using the LCD monitor during recording and playback, you can adjust the brightness of its screen and the angle of the monitor.

● Opening the LCD Monitor

1 Press the OPEN button to open the LCD monitor.

Note: Opening or closing the LCD monitor switches the picture to appear on the LCD monitor or in the viewfinder.



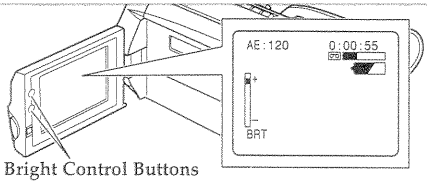
● Adjusting the Brightness of the LCD Screen

Note: Even when the picture on the LCD monitor is adjusted, the recorded video will not change.

1 Load the battery. ("Camcorder Power Sources", p19.)

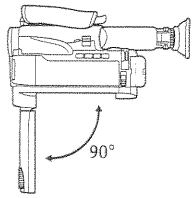
2 Press the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch as you slide it to CAM or VIDEO.

3 Use the brightness control buttons to adjust the brightness of the LCD screen. When either button is pressed, the brightness control display will appear on the LCD monitor for about 5 seconds. Press ▲ to increase brightness, or ▼ to decrease it. After 5 seconds, the adjustment display will automatically disappear.

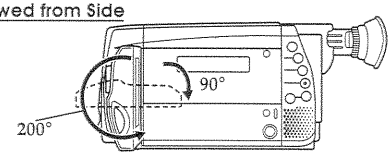


● Range in which the LCD Monitor can be moved

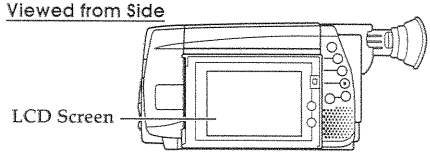
Viewed from Top



Viewed from Side



Viewed from Side



- If the LCD monitor is turned 90° so that it faces the same direction as the lens when the camera signal is being recorded during recording, recording pause, instant review, editing, A/V dubbing or A/V dubbing pause, the image on the monitor screen will become a mirror image, and the viewfinder will turn on. The on-screen display on the LCD monitor will also be as if reflected on a mirror.
- If the LCD monitor is closed with the screen facing to the side, the mirror image will change to a normal image when the LCD monitor has been closed about 45°; also, the viewfinder will turn off.

Cautions on LCD Monitor Screen

- Do not touch the LCD screen with your fingers as the screen could get dirty and the picture will not be seen clearly. If the LCD screen becomes dirty, use a soft cloth to wipe off the dirt.
- If the camcorder is used in a cold place and becomes too cold, the LCD screen will be dim for a while after the power is turned on. When the temperature inside the camcorder rises, the brightness of the picture will become normal.
- Do not hold by the LCD monitor as this could cause a malfunction.
- Open the LCD monitor by 90° before changing its direction. If you were to attempt to invert its direction before opening it completely, it could cause a malfunction.
- The LCD monitor cannot be closed if it is tilted.
- Close the LCD monitor after making sure it is parallel with the camcorder. If you were to close the monitor while it faces the same direction as the lens or it is diagonal, it could damage the LCD monitor.
- Do not disassemble the LCD monitor as this might cause a malfunction.
- When opening the LCD monitor, be careful that no water droplets adhere the monitor screen and that no water or dust enters the camcorder through the gap as it could cause a malfunction.

Active Screen

The camcorder automatically brightens the backlight of the LCD monitor when you are recording a bright subject outdoors, so that the LCD screen is easy to see.

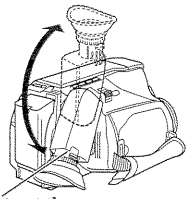
Note: When you record a bright subject outdoors, the camcorder operating time will be less than when recording indoors.

Note: Even if you record outdoors, the LCD monitor backlight may not brighten, if you are aiming at a dark subject.

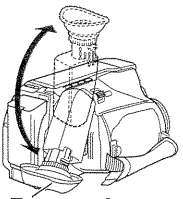
Note: While the battery charge indicator " " is flashing, the Active Screen function will not operate.

Adjusting the Electronic Viewfinder

The electronic viewfinder adjusts simply by pivoting it to a position where it is comfortable and easy to see through. Place the viewfinder back in its original position before storing the camcorder in its case or carrying the camera recorder around to avoid damaging the viewfinder or camcorder.
To replace the viewfinder, retract the eye cup stem or turn over the eye cup.

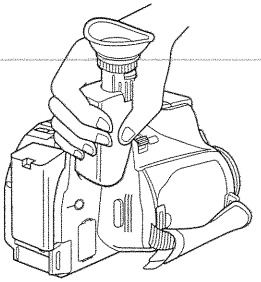


Retract the eye cup stem.



Turn over the eye cup.

CAUTION:
Do not hold the unit by the electronic viewfinder when carrying as this could cause a malfunction.



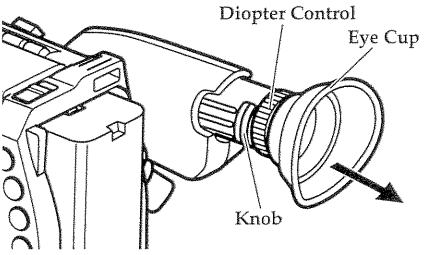
Eyepiece Adjustment

To use the electronic viewfinder, grasp the knobs on both sides of the eye cup stem and pull the eye cup all the way, then turn the diopter control for your optimum focus adjustment.
Since the eye cup has already been pulled out at the factory, in present condition, only adjustment of the diopter control is necessary.

Note: Be sure to pull out the eye cup all the way so that you can see the subject in the viewfinder clearly.

Note: Hold the knobs on both sides of the eye cup stem to pull out the eye cup.

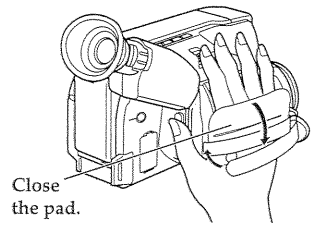
Note: The eye cup stem can be retracted when the camcorder is being carried.



Adjustment the Hand Strap

Adjust the hand strap to best fit your hand.

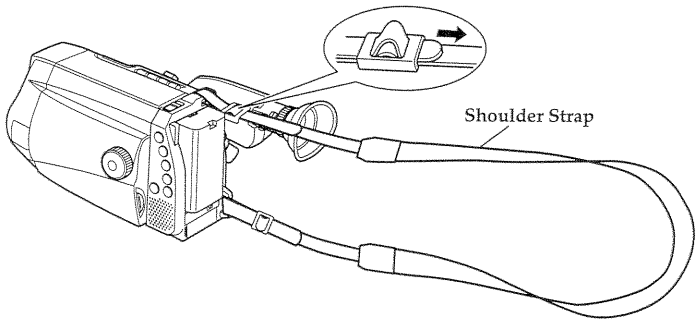
Note: After adjustment, close the hand strap's pad securely.



Attaching the Shoulder Strap

Thread the ends of the provided shoulder strap through the slots at the back of the camcorder and thread through the shoulder straps' buckles.

Note: Make sure that the straps are securely fastened before using the shoulder strap to carry the camcorder.



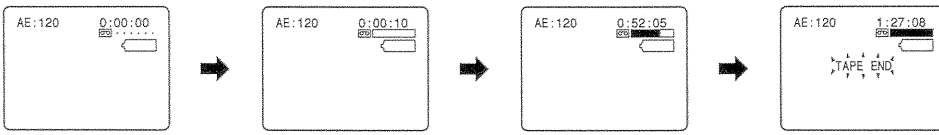
Remaining Tape

The tape remaining display shows the remaining tape that can be used for recording and playback, using seven dashes. This feature is handy when recording since it lets you know how long you can record on the loaded tape.

Insert a cassette into the camcorder and start recording or playback; 10 seconds later, the remaining tape will be displayed. When the cassette is ejected, the display will disappear. " ⊡ – – – – – – " is displayed for 10 seconds after the tape starts to run.

Note: The tape remaining display appears 10 seconds after the tape starts to run.

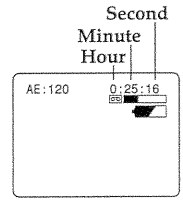
Note: When the remaining tape time becomes less than about three minutes, "TAPE END" flashes in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



Using the Linear Time Counter

The linear time counter displays the tape run in hours, minutes, and seconds, helping you to keep track of how long you've been filming or time you have left to film before running out of tape.

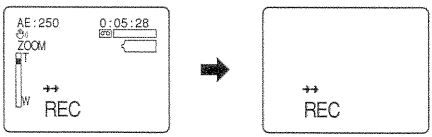
Turn the camcorder on to display the linear time counter. The linear time counter keeps track from when you load a cassette into the camcorder and clears to "0:00:00" when the cassette is ejected.



Display in Viewfinder or on LCD Monitor

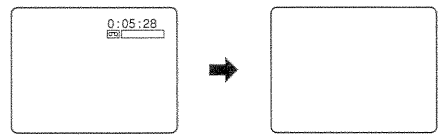
When you are using the camcorder, the selected functions and time counter will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. If the characters and icons displayed during recording and playback bother you, press the DATE/DISP. button on the camcorder to erase them.

Example of display during recording



- Even if the shutter speed (AE:250, etc.), "ZOOM", image stabilizer icon, etc. are being displayed, only the title and date/time will be recorded on tape.

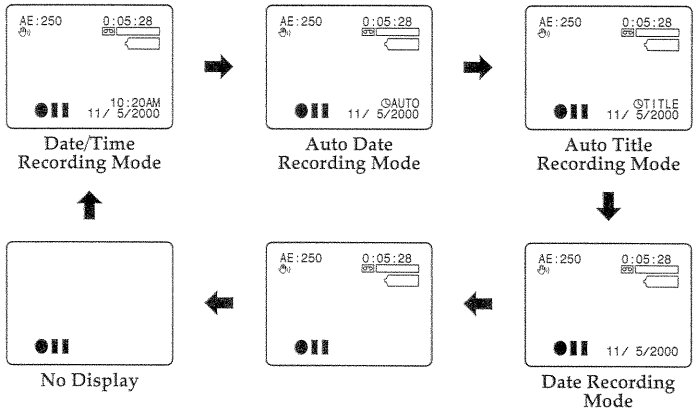
Example of display during playback



- If the time counter, etc. is displayed during playback, it will also appear on the connected TV screen. If the tape is dubbed as is, the counter will also be recorded with dubbed image: Switch off the display to avoid this.

Switching the Display

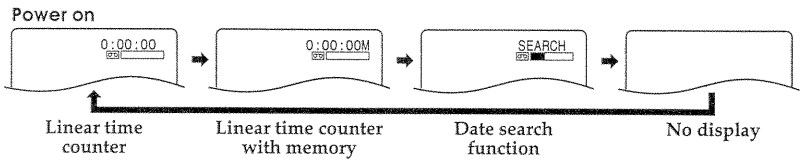
CAM mode: Press the DATE/DISP. button on the camcorder to switch the display.



Note: When the date and time appear on the LCD monitor, you cannot erase them by pressing the DISPLAY button on the remote control. If you want to erase the on-screen display, press the DATE/DISP. button on the camcorder.

Note: In the CAM mode, you can turn the time counter memory on or off by pressing the DISPLAY button on the remote control ("Using Memory", p51). When the camcorder is connected to a TV, you can turn the on-screen display on or off by pressing the DISPLAY button on the remote control.

VIDEO mode: Press the DATE/DISP. button on the camcorder or DISPLAY button on the remote control to switch the display.



- When a recorded tape is in the camcorder during the VIDEO mode, "SEARCH" appears in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. (See "Date Search" on page 51.)
- See "Using Memory" on page 51.

Note: The linear time counter with the memory feature and "SEARCH" in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor can also be displayed on the connected television.

Note: If the LCD monitor is opened or closed (the picture is switched) during playback, the on-screen display in the picture will disappear for about one second, and then reappear again.

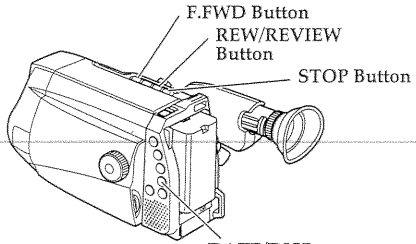
Setting the Date and Time

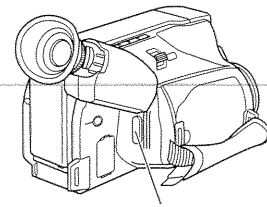
Take the time to set the date and time now. The date and time can be recorded on your tapes to act as a handy reference when viewing them later. Use the following procedure to set up the display for the current date and time.

Note: Be sure to insert the clock battery before setting the date and time. Although the date and time can be set without the clock battery inserted, they will disappear when the battery providing power to the camcorder is removed.

Note: If you leave the powered camcorder for 10 minutes without a cassette inserted when the date has not been set or the clock battery is dead, the camcorder demonstration mode will start. To cancel the demonstration mode, disconnect power from camcorder and reconnect it, or insert a cassette.

Make sure that the current time is displayed correctly before you start filming.

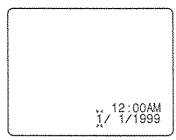




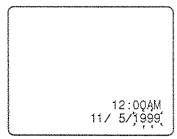
1 Load the battery. ("Camcorder Power Sources", p19.)

2 Press the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch as you slide it to CAM.

3 Press the DATE/DISP. button and look into the viewfinder or LCD monitor. The date and time should appear in the lower right with the "1" flashing.

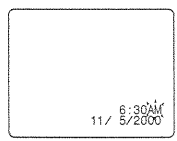


4 Pressing the F.FWD button gives you higher numbers while the REW/REVIEW button gives you lower numbers. Select the right month and press STOP button. Use the F.FWD, REW/REVIEW and STOP buttons to select the proper day, year, hour, minute, and AM or PM.



5 After setting the AM/PM, press the DATE/DISP. button. The display changes and the internal clock starts.

Note: After the date and time are set, "🕒 AUTO" appears and the camcorder enters the automatic date recording mode. See "Date Recording" on page 43.



Correcting the Date and Time

1 Press the DATE/DISP. button while pressing the STOP button. The flashing cursor appears at the month.

2 Move to where you need to make the correction with the STOP button and use the F.FWD and REW/REVIEW to correct.

3 Press the DATE/DISP. button to set the corrected date and time.

Basic Techniques

The batteries are in place and charged, the date and time are set, and you are familiar with the controls its time to make a recording. Basic recording is easy and simple. Hooking up the camcorder to your TV is not complicated but give yourself plenty of time to ensure connections are correct.

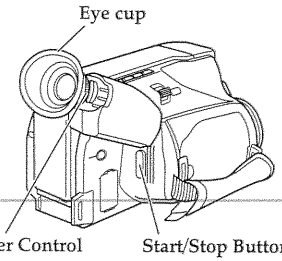
This section guides you through basic recording and playback. Practice the basic techniques of recording and playback on something unimportant such as traffic or a short tour of your backyard. Once familiar with how the machine works you can move to the more sophisticated features with less stress.

Let's get started!

Making a Basic Recording

The Hitachi VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA uses PROGRAM AE auto exposure that automatically selects the optimum shutter speed (either 1/60, 1/120, 1/180, 1/250, 1/350, 1/500, 1/750, 1/1000, 1/1500, 1/2000, or 1/4000 of a second). The iris adjusts automatically in response to the shutter speed.

Information for VM-H955LA: Use the AE dial to select the exposure that suits the subject condition. For details, see "Using the PROGRAM AE Dial" on page 44.

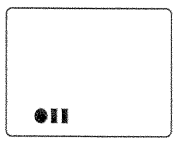


1 Connect the camcorder to a power source (See pages p16 ~ p19).

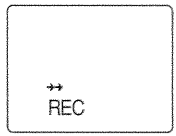
2 Open the LCD monitor and insert a cassette ("Inserting and Removing Cassettes", p20).
If you want to view the picture being recorded on the LCD monitor, leave the monitor open. If you want to view the picture in the viewfinder, close the LCD monitor.

Note: Pull out the eye cup all the way when using the viewfinder.

3 Press the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch as you slide it to CAM. The lens door will open automatically. "●II" appears in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor and the camcorder is now ready to record.



4 When you are ready to record press the Start/Stop button. "REC" appears and the camcorder records the picture you see in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



5 To stop recording press the Start/Stop button and "REC" disappears from the viewfinder or LCD monitor replaced by "●II". This places the camcorder in standby.

6 After recording, slide the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to OFF position to turn off the camcorder.

Note: If the LCD monitor is opened or closed (the monitor picture is switched between the viewfinder and LCD monitor) during recording, the on-screen display will disappear for about one second. It is recommended that you do not switch the picture during recording as the date or title superimposed in the picture being recorded will disappear for about one second.

Note: If the LCD monitor is opened or closed during recording, several white stripes may appear in the picture, but this does not indicate a fault. However, these stripes are recorded with the picture, so it is recommended that you do not close or open the LCD monitor during recording.

Note: "TAPE" flashes in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor when the tab on the side of the cassette is completely visible.

Note: "TAPE END" flashes in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor when about 3 minutes or less remain of the tape cassette.

Note: If the camcorder is left in record/ pause mode for more than 5 minutes, the camcorder turns off automatically. To restart it press the Start/Stop button and the camera returns to record/pause mode.

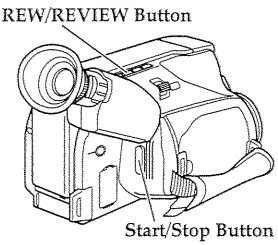
Using Instant Review

Use this feature to view the last few seconds of the tape you shot.

1 Set the camcorder to record/pause mode and tap the REW/REVIEW button. The last few seconds of the tape play back in reverse and then in normal playback mode.

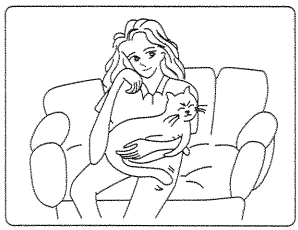
Note: Sound is heard from the speaker during normal playback.

2 The camera plays back to the spot where you paused and returns to record/pause mode (standby). Press the Start/Stop button to resume recording.

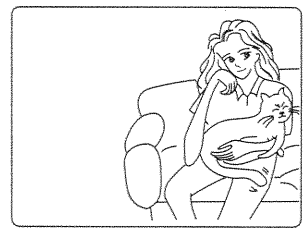


Using Auto Focus

The camcorder focuses the subject in the center of the viewfinder or LCD monitor automatically unless the manual focus is engaged. If "FOCUS" appears in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, manual focus is engaged. Press the FOCUS/VOL. control buttons simultaneously to return to auto focus.

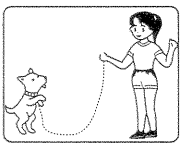


Good

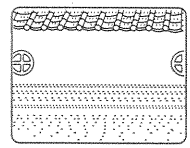


Not good

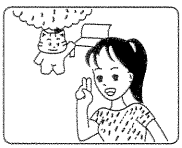
The auto focus will not work under the following conditions and you must focus manually:



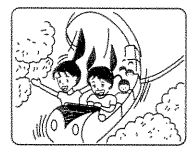
Objects outside the center of the viewfinder or LCD monitor



Objects with little difference in light reflection such as a white wall

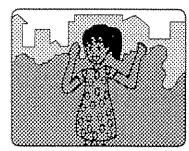


Objects at different distances in the center of the view finder or LCD monitor

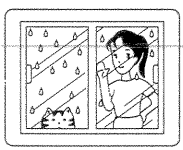


Rapidly moving objects

Brightly lit objects such as a neon light, objects lit by spotlight, etc.



Dark objects



Objects behind water dappled or dusty glass

Note: With the T zoom control you can use the auto focus with subjects that are 3.3 feet (100 cm) away from the lens and further away to infinity. With the W zoom control you can use the auto focus with subjects 3/8 inches (1cm) away from the lens and further away to infinity.

Using Manual Focus

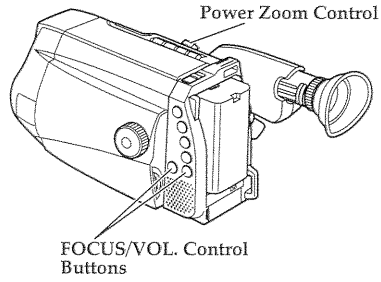
1 Press the FOCUS/VOL. control buttons simultaneously. "FOCUS" displays in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. You can adjust the focus manually.

2 Use the power zoom T control to zoom up completely to your subject. If you don't use the T control to zoom to the picture you want, the picture may fall out of focus when actual recording starts.

3 Press the FOCUS/VOL. control ▲ (far) or ▼ (near) button until the subject is in focus.

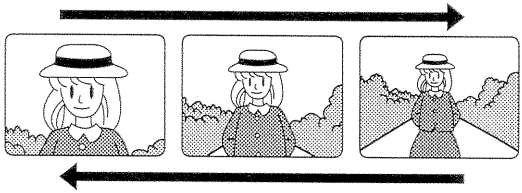
4 Use the power zoom W control to zoom back to the picture you desire.

Note: To return to auto focus press the FOCUS/VOL. control buttons and the "FOCUS" disappears from the viewfinder or LCD monitor.



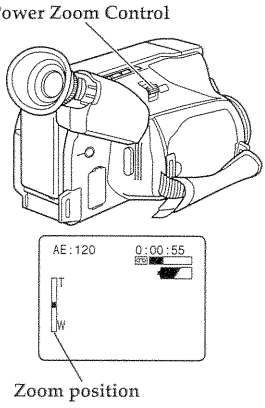
Using the Power Zoom

The power zoom W control widens the picture, moving the subject farther away, while the power zoom T control brings the subject closer, narrowing the picture. If "ZOOM" appears at the left of the viewfinder or LCD monitor, the digital zoom function shown below has been engaged.



The zoom speed varies depending on how the power zoom control lever is moved: the more the lever is moved, the higher than zoom speed will be.

When the power zoom control is operated, the zoom position is displayed in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor for about 5 seconds and then disappears. The zoom position is displayed in 10 steps.

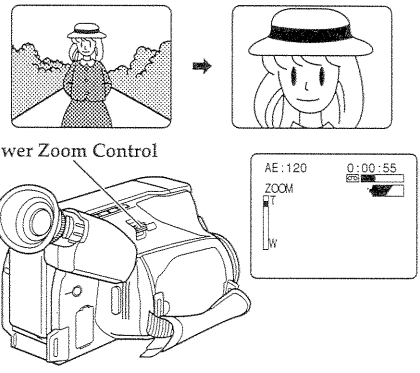


Using the Digital Zoom

The digital zoom increases the magnification of the power zoom by 4.5 times. You must place the subject you wish to magnify at the center of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.

Slide and hold the power zoom control to the "T" side until you find the picture you want. You control the zoom with the power zoom T and W controls. When "ZOOM" is not displayed in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, normal zoom functions resume.

Note: This digital zoom has certain limitations and may degrade at extreme magnification and amplify camcorder's movement.



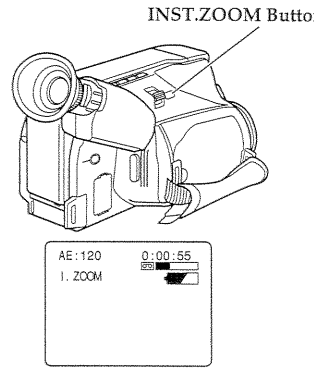
Using the INST. ZOOM (Instant Zoom) Button

The instant zoom feature activates the digital zoom to magnify the subject 1.5 times regardless of zooming engaged by the power zoom T and W controls.

Press the INST. ZOOM button. "I. ZOOM" appears at the left of the viewfinder or LCD monitor and the picture is magnified 1.5 times.

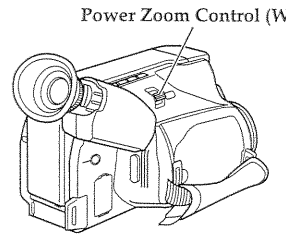
Note: To return to the original zoom position, press the INST. ZOOM button so that "I. ZOOM" disappears from the viewfinder or LCD monitor.

Note: This instant zoom has certain limitations and may degrade at extreme magnification and amplify camcorder's movement.



Using Macro

This function allows you to shoot subjects as close as 3/8 inches (1cm). Press and hold the power zoom control W. The camera focuses on the subject automatically. Check your lighting as it tends to be insufficient when filming close up.

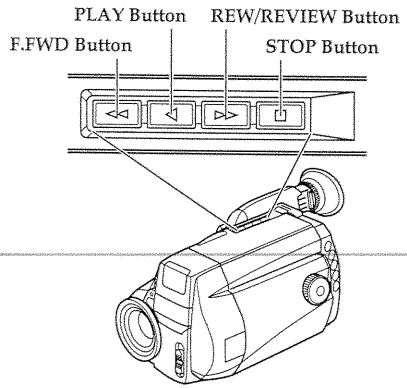


Playback

You can view recorded pictures on the LCD monitor immediately after recording.

Note: Make sure that "PAL60" does not appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. If it is displayed, no color will appear in the played back picture ("Multi Playback", p40).

Information for VM-H955LA: Use the AE dial to adjust the finer details of playback pictures ("Using PROGRAM AE Dial", p44).

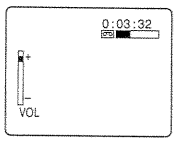


1 Open the LCD monitor, and then adjust the angle of the monitor ("Opening the LCD Monitor", p21).

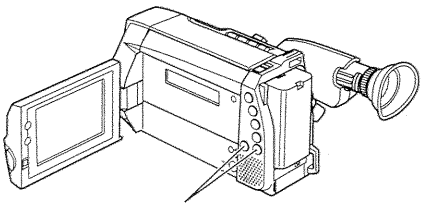
2 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to VIDEO.

3 Press the REW/REVIEW button to rewind the tape.
For fast forwarding the tape, press F.FWD.

4 Press the PLAY button and play back the tape. To adjust the volume, press the FOCUS/VOL. control buttons. When either button is pressed, the volume adjustment display will appear on the LCD monitor for about 5 seconds. Press ▲ to increase the volume, or press ▼ to decrease it. After 5 seconds, the adjustment display will automatically disappear.



5 Press the STOP button when you have finished.



FOCUS/VOL. Control Buttons

Note: Decrease the sound volume of the camcorder when you play back a recording by connecting the camcorder to your TV. If the volume of the camcorder is set to maximum, the played back picture may be distorted. Make sure that the volume is not set to maximum during recording as it could distort the played back picture.

Note: When the LCD monitor is turned on and left as it is, the monitor becomes warm, but this does not indicate a fault.

Note: When the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to CAM or VIDEO, the LCD monitor is turned on and off automatically when the LCD monitor is opened and closed.

Note: It is recommended that you close the LCD monitor to save the battery power when playing back a picture on a TV without viewing it.

Note: Only the playback sound is heard. The sound being recorded is not heard.

Note: No sound is heard when the LCD monitor is closed.

● To Play Back a Tape with the Viewfinder

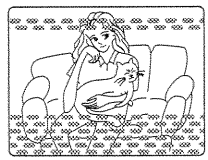
Close the LCD monitor, then press the PLAY button to play back the tape. The picture appears in the viewfinder.

Note: You cannot hear the playback sound when playing back your video with the viewfinder.

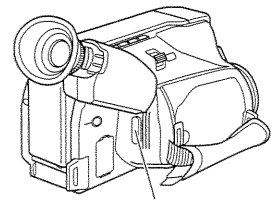
Using Still

To view a still picture during playback press the Start/Stop. Press the Start/Stop button again to resume playback. If you leave the camcorder in play/pause mode for more than 5 minutes the camcorder automatically stops the cassette to prevent damage to the tape. You can view a still picture with less noise on the LCD monitor (**Clear Still**).

Note: The still picture will have several noise bars in the viewfinder and on the TV, but this does not indicate a fault.



Note: If you are freezing a picture with the LCD monitor closed, then you will not be able to view a still picture with less noise when you open the monitor.



Start/Stop Button

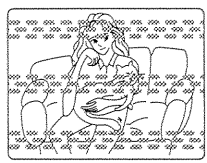
Using Forward and Reverse Search

When looking for a particular point in your videotape use the F.FWD button and REW/REVIEW button to find the spot quickly.

When the LCD monitor is closed:

- Press the F.FWD button during playback to play the tape forward at approximately 9 times normal speed. Press the PLAY button to return to normal playback.
- Press and hold the F.FWD button during fast forward to visually scan the tape at 19 times the normal playback speed. Releasing F.FWD returns the camcorder to fast forward.
- Press the REW/REVIEW button during playback to play the tape backwards at approximately 7 times normal speed. Press the PLAY button to return to normal playback.
- Press and hold the REW/REVIEW button during fast rewind to visually scan the tape backwards at 17 times the normal playback speed. Releasing REW/REVIEW returns the camcorder to fast rewind.

Note: When you engage F.FWD button or REW/REVIEW button the picture will have some interference or noise in the viewfinder. This is normal during search mode.



When the LCD monitor is open (Clear Search):

You can view pictures with less noise on the LCD monitor during forward or reverse search.

- Press the F.FWD button during playback to play the tape forward at 6 times normal play speed. Press the PLAY button to resume normal playback.
- Press and hold the F.FWD button during fast forward to visually scan the tape at 17 times the normal playback speed. Releasing F.FWD returns the camcorder to fast forward.
- Press the REW/REVIEW button during playback to play the tape in reverse at 4 times normal speed. Press the PLAY button to resume normal playback.
- Press and hold the REW/REVIEW button during fast rewind to visually scan the tape backwards at 15 times the normal playback speed. Releasing REW/REVIEW returns the camcorder to fast rewind.

Note: If you are using forward or reverse search with the LCD monitor closed, then you will not be able to view pictures with less noise when you open the monitor.

Note: Several noise bars will appear on the TV screen during forward or reverse search.

Note: A noiseless picture will not appear during high-speed search even if the LCD monitor is open.

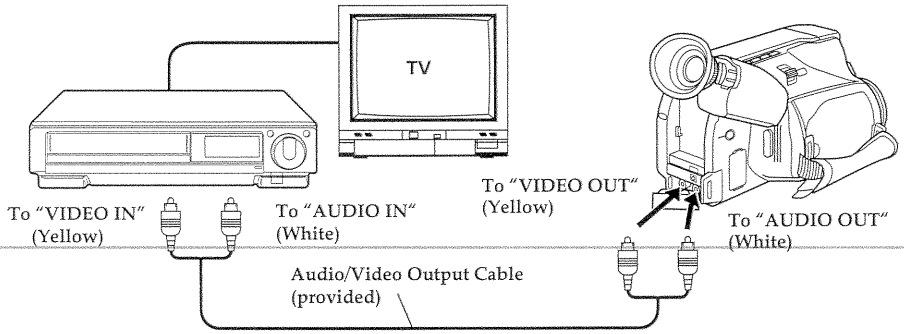
Note: Noise may flow during high-speed search in low temperature conditions.

Playing Back Your Recording on Your TV

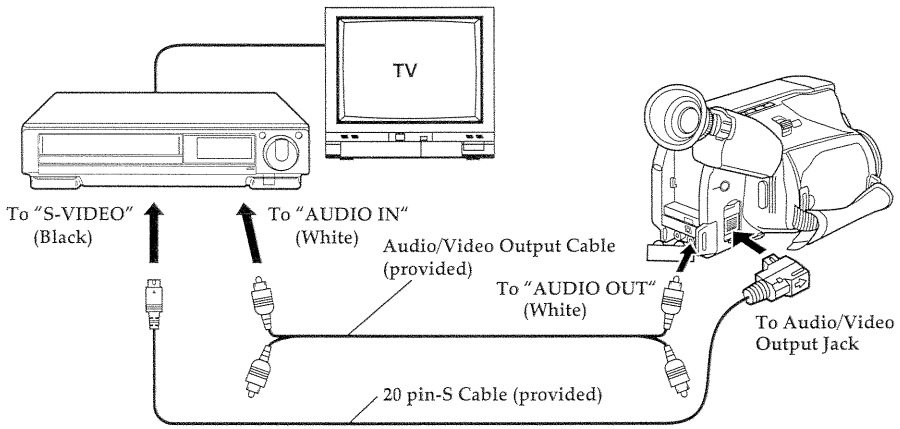
Depending on the setup of your video equipment, you connect the camcorder in one of the 3 methods explained below.

Connecting to a Television with a VCR Attached

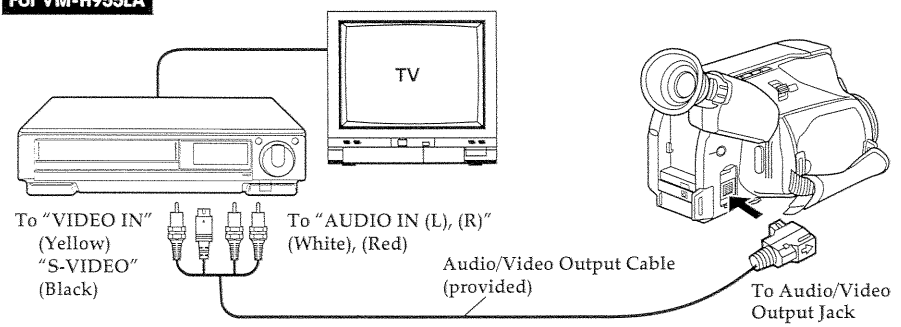
For VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA

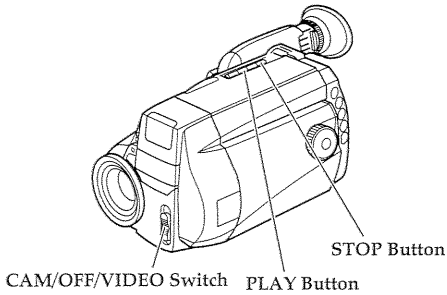


For VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: When using the provided 20 pin-S cable



For VM-H955LA





1 Connect the provided audio/video output cable to the AUDIO IN and VIDEO IN jacks of your VCR.

Note for VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: If your VCR has two (stereo) AUDIO IN jacks, connect the audio plug to the left-channel AUDIO IN jack.

Note for VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: Some VCRs have an S-VIDEO IN jack. Connect the provided 20 pin-S cable instead of the yellow VIDEO plug as illustrated.

Notes for VM-H955LA

- Connect either right or left audio plug into your VCR if it has only one AUDIO IN jack.
- Some VCRs have an S-VIDEO IN jack. Connect the black S-VIDEO plug to the VCR instead of the yellow VIDEO plug.
- If you use a generally available audio/video cable in place of the provided Audio/Video output cable with the connection shown above, unplug the provided cable from the Audio/Video output jack of the camcorder.

2 Connect the other ends of the cable to the AUDIO OUT and VIDEO OUT jacks (VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA) or to the Audio/Video output jack (VM-H955LA) of the camcorder.

3 Insert a previously recorded cassette into the camcorder.

4 Turn on your VCR and place it in the camcorder input mode (consult your VCR manual for details). Operate the television as you normally do to see the signal coming from the VCR.

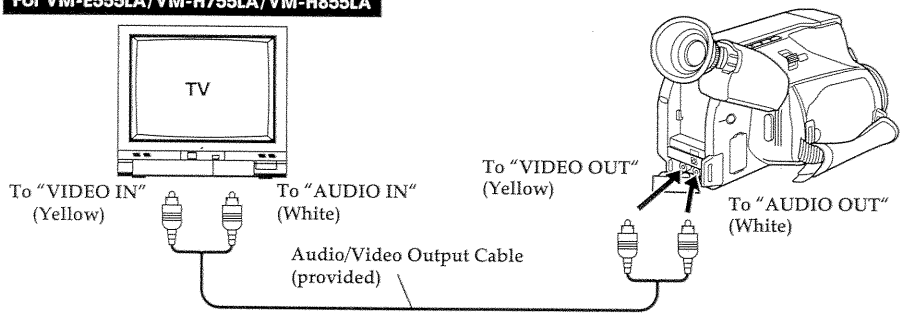
5 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to VIDEO.

6 Press the PLAY button to begin playback.

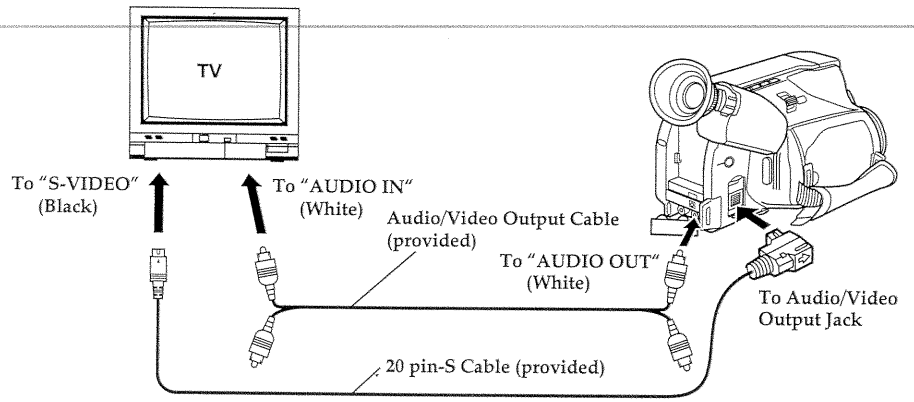
7 Press the STOP button when finished.

Connecting to a Television with Audio In and Video In Jacks

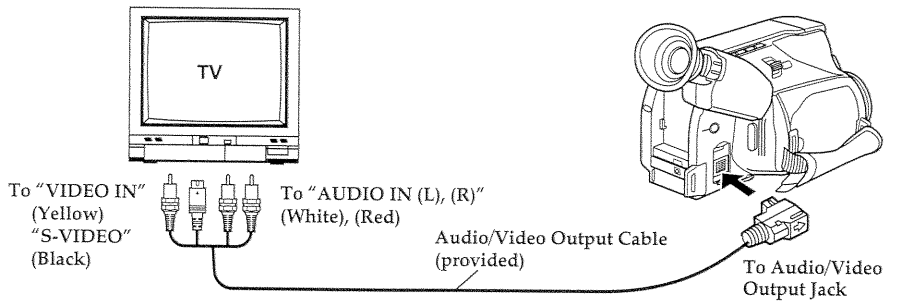
For VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA

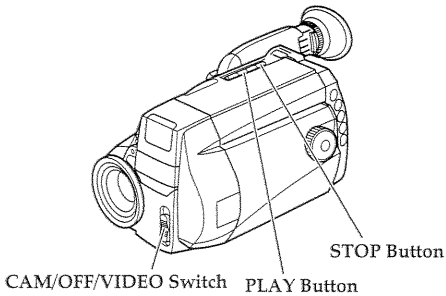


For VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: When using the provided 20 pin-S cable



For VM-H955LA





1 Connect the provided audio/video output cable to the AUDIO IN and VIDEO IN jacks of your television.

Note for VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: If your television has two (stereo) AUDIO IN jacks, connect the audio plug to the left-channel AUDIO IN jack.

Note for VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: Some television have an S-VIDEO IN jack. Connect the provided 20 pin-S cable instead of the yellow VIDEO plug as illustrated.

Notes for VM-H955LA

- Connect either right or left audio plug into your television if it has only one AUDIO IN jack.
- Some televisions have an S-VIDEO IN jack. Connect the black S-VIDEO plug to the television instead of the yellow VIDEO plug.
- If you use a generally available audio/video cable in place of the provided Audio/Video output cable with the connection shown above, unplug the provided cable from the Audio/Video output jack of the camcorder.

2 Connect the other ends of the cable to the AUDIO OUT and VIDEO OUT jacks (VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA) or to the Audio/Video output jack (VM-H955LA) of the camcorder.

3 Insert a previously recorded cassette into the camcorder.

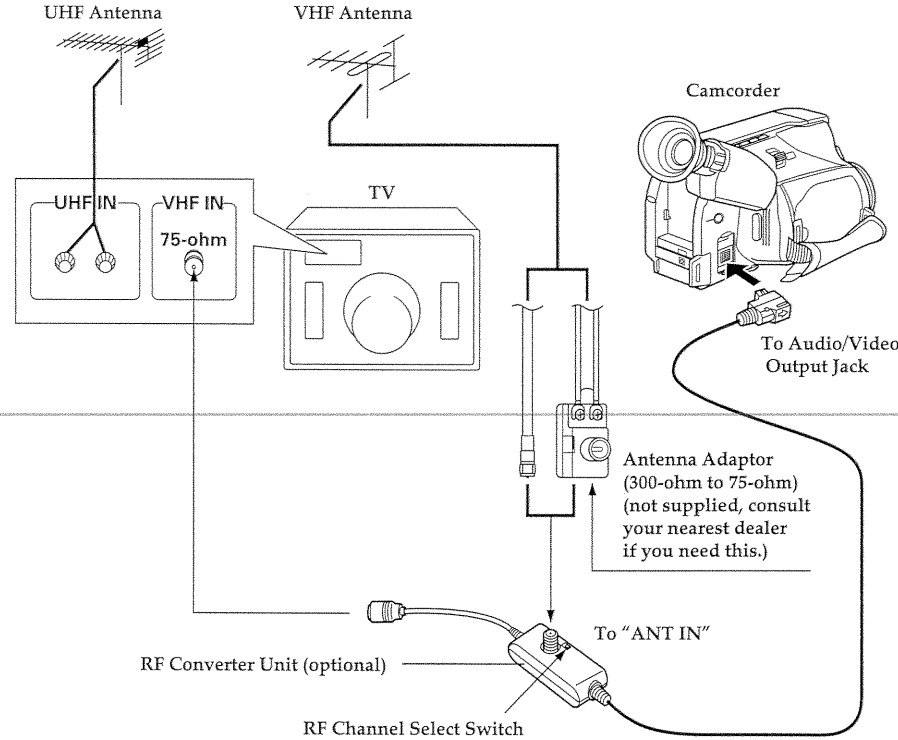
4 Turn on your television and set to the camcorder input mode (consult your television manual for details).

5 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to VIDEO.

6 Press the PLAY button to begin playback.

7 Press the STOP button when finished.

Connecting to a Television without Audio In and Video In Jacks



1 Disconnect the VHF antenna leads from the back of the television. Leave the UHF antenna leads connected.

2 Connect the VHF antenna lead to ANT IN of the RF converter unit. If the cable on the VHF antenna lead is flat you need to purchase an antenna adaptor (300-ohm to 75-ohm transformer). Connect the antenna adaptor to the VHF antenna lead and slide the adaptor on to the ANT IN terminal.

3 Connect the 75-ohm coaxial cable of the RF converter unit to the VHF antenna terminals on the back of the television. If the television is set up to connect to a flat antenna lead you need to purchase an antenna adaptor (75-ohm to 300-ohm transformer). Connect the adaptor to the 75-ohm coaxial cable of the RF converter unit and connect the free ends of the adaptor to the VHF antenna terminals at the back of you television.

4 Connect the RF converter unit cable to the Audio/Video Output jack of your camcorder.

5 Turn your television on and select channel 3 (channel 4, if channel 3 is a channel used in your area).

6 Select the CH3 or CH4 on the RF converter unit matching the channel selected on your television.

7 Insert the previously recorded cassette into the camcorder.

8 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to VIDEO.

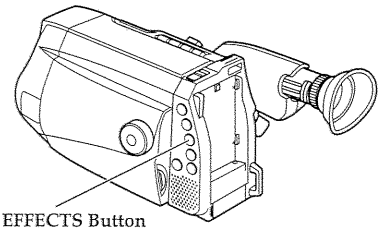
9 Press the PLAY button to begin playback.

10 Press the STOP button when finished.

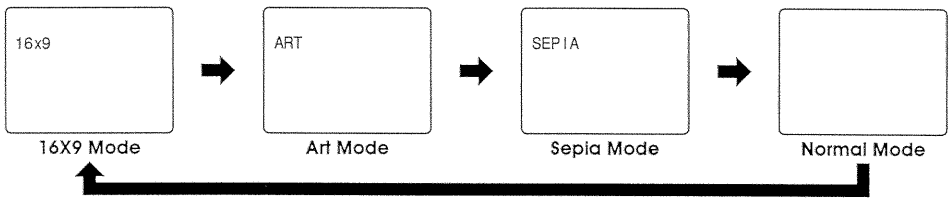
Note: The RF converter unit cannot be used during multi playback (PAL60 output).

Video Effects in Playback Mode

The digital signal processor (DSP) in this camcorder allows you to add special effects to playback pictures. Use this feature during tape dubbing, etc. to create a tape with a more artistic impression. The video effect modes during playback include 16x9, Art and Sepia.



- Each time the EFFECTS button is pressed in the playback or play/pause mode, the playback mode will switch as follows:

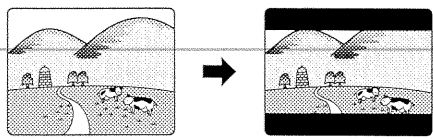


Activating Video Effects Playback

1. Press the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch as you slide it to VIDEO.
2. Play the tape or set the camcorder to the play pause mode.
3. Press the EFFECTS button to select the video effect playback mode.

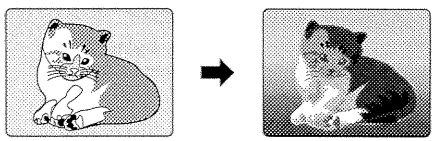
"16x9": 16x9 Mode

The top and bottom of the picture will be black bars.



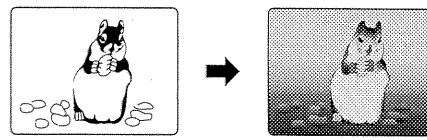
"ART": Art Mode

The entire picture will take on the look of an oil painting.



"SEPIA": Sepia Mode

The entire picture will be sepia.



Note: To switch the mode or return to the normal picture during tape dubbing, temporarily stop the dubbing and press the EFFECTS button.

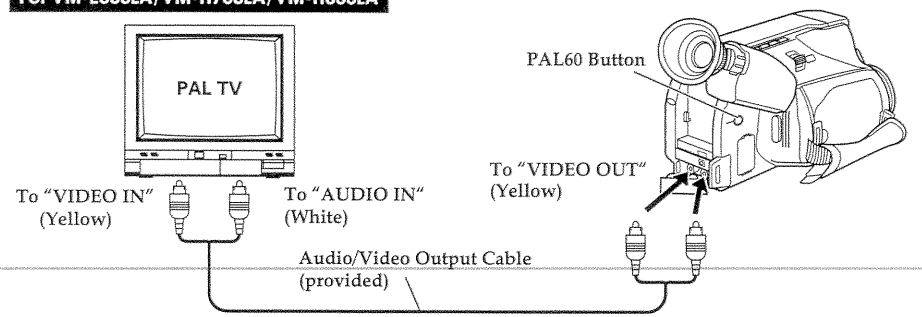
Note: When tape stops, the normal picture will be restored.

Multi Playback

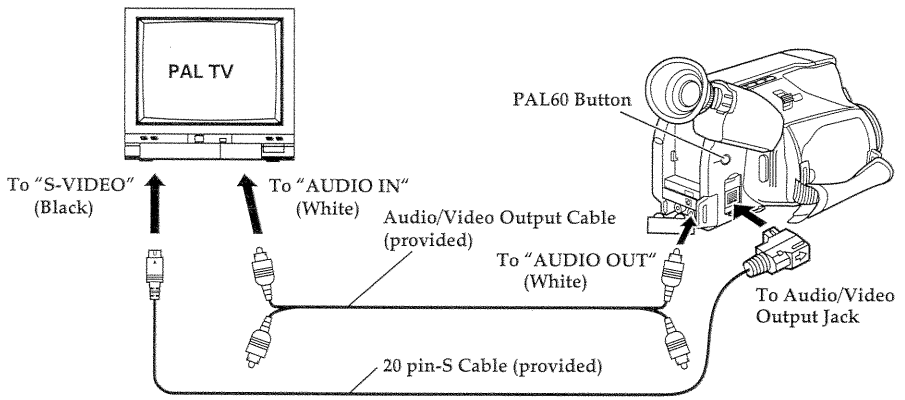
This camcorder can convert an NTSC recorded tape into "PAL60" format signal. "PAL60" is a special output signal format with which a PAL TV can be used to view a tape recorded on an NTSC recorder.

Connecting to a PAL Television

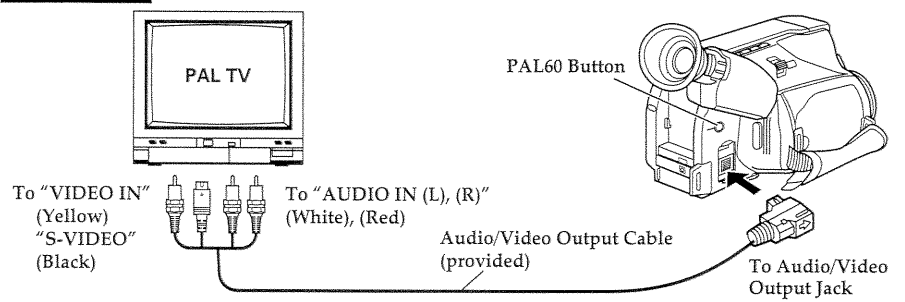
For VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA



For VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: When using the provided 20 pin-S cable



For VM-H955LA



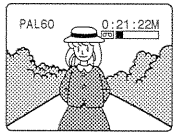
1 Connect the camcorder to TV as shown in the figure.

2 Turn the TV on and select the TV "video input". Set the TV to the PAL60 mode.

3 Set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch of the camcorder to VIDEO.

4 Press the PAL60 button.

5 Press the PLAY button of the camcorder. If you press the DATE/DISP. button at this time, "PAL60" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



6 When playback is finished, set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to OFF position.

Note: Connect the camcorder to a TV monitor which has a vertical sync adjustment circuitry (volume) for 60 Hz and which can also be locked into the PAL60 mode. Refer to the TV instruction manual for details on how to set the TV.

Note: This camcorder cannot record using the PAL60 system.

Note: A black-and-white picture will appear on the LDC monitor when playing back tape with the PAL60 system.

Note: The PAL60 button is effective during playback only.

Note: Depending on the state of the tape recorded, the PAL60 button may not operate normally.

Note: The RF converter unit cannot be used during multi playback (PAL60 output).

Note: The PAL60 mode will be released when the camcorder is turned off.

Advanced Techniques

The Hitachi VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA offers a diverse group of features that add interest and excitement to your video. Adding fades to smooth transitions creates video with a professional look.

As you learn and practice with these features think of situations that they might fit in and add a special touch.

Changing the Angle of the LCD Monitor when Recording

You can change the angle of the LCD monitor so that the picture on the LCD screen can be monitored from different positions.

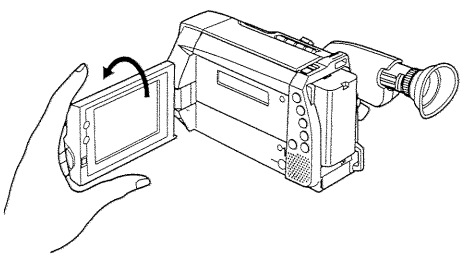
See "LCD Monitor" (p21) for the range in which you can change the angle of the LCD monitor.

Note: You need the remote control to operate the camcorder.

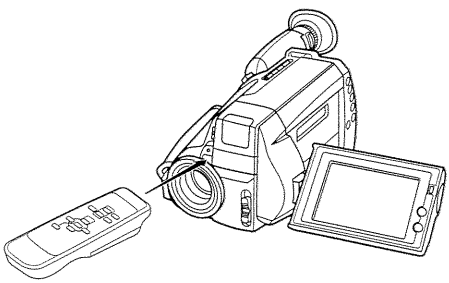
Recording an Image of Yourself while Monitoring the LCD Screen

1 Open the LCD monitor ("Opening the LCD Monitor", p21).

2 Turn the LCD monitor so the monitor screen faces the same direction as the lens.



Press the START/STOP button on the remote control, and the camcorder will begin recording.

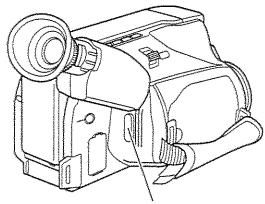


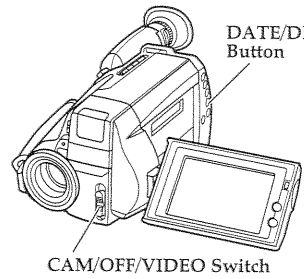
Note: When you record an image of yourself, the image displayed on the LCD monitor will become a mirror image. The on-screen display on the LCD monitor will also be as if reflected on a mirror.

Note: Tilt the LCD monitor in the direction of the camera lens so that it faces up slightly, and the screen may be viewed easily.

Date Recording

When the date has been set, the camcorder will enter the automatic date recording mode automatically.



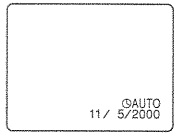


1 Press the red button on the CAM/OFF/ VIDEO switch as you slide it to CAM.

2 Press the DATE/DISP. button to specify the date display you want to record.

"◷AUTO" and Date — Automatic Date Recording

This option records the date automatically once a day at the beginning of recording for 10 seconds.



Note: The camcorder records the same date when;

— the cassette is replaced.

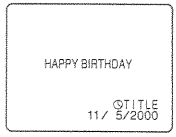
— you select "◷AUTO" and date display again.

— the recording is less than 10 seconds long.

Note: If the date changes while recording continues over 10 seconds, the new date is recorded for about 10 seconds the next time you make a recording.

"◷TITLE" and Date — Automatic Title and Date Recording

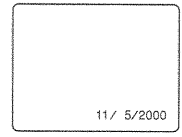
This option records the date and selected title or created title (see "Creating and Recording a Title", p52) automatically once a day at the beginning of recording for 10 seconds.



Note: When "◷TITLE" is displayed in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, the title cannot be turned on or off using the remote control.

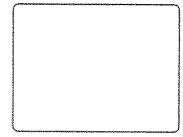
Date — Date Recording

The camcorder records the date with the picture all the time.



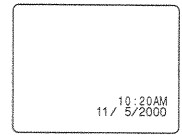
No Display — No Date Recording

The camcorder does not record the date.



Date and Time — Date and Time Recording

The camcorder records the date and time with the picture all the time.



3 Press the Start/Stop button.

Recording will start.

Note: When "◷AUTO" and date display is selected, the date disappears about 10 seconds after recoding is started.

Note: When "◷TITLE" and date display is selected, the title and date disappear about 10 seconds after recoding is started.

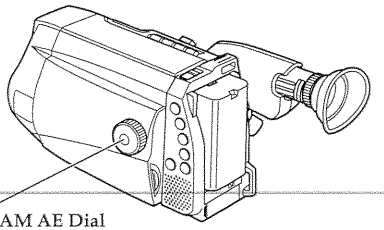
Using the PROGRAM AE Dial (only for VM-H955LA)

This camcorder can easily set the shutter speed and aperture to suit the subject condition, recording situation or purpose, as well as adjusting all of these according to the subject brightness (conventional program AE).

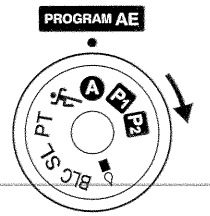
Turn the PROGRAM AE dial to select the recording mode according to the subject to be recorded and the recording conditions.

During playback, turn the dial to adjust the finer details of playback pictures.

Recording by Selecting Recording Mode



PROGRAM AE Dial



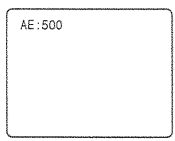
Turn the PROGRAM AE dial during recording pause to set the dial to the desired recording mode by aligning it with the "•" mark.

Note: The dial will not work when the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch of the camcorder is set to "VIDEO".

Note: When the dial is set to P1 or P2, recording will be done in the A (full auto) mode.

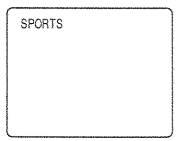
A : Full Auto Mode

In this mode, the camcorder automatically adjusts the shutter speed and aperture according to the subject brightness. Therefore, use this mode for standard recording.
The shutter speed will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



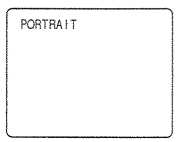
Sports Mode

Select this mode when recording rapidly moving subjects, such as golf or tennis swings, etc.: The subject will be clearly recorded, without blurring.
"SPORTS" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



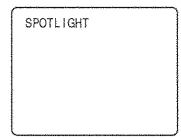
PT : Portrait Mode

Select this mode when recording a subject portrait standing out from a blurred background.
"PORTRAIT" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



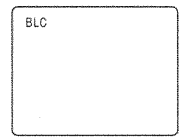
SL : Spotlight Mode

Select this mode when the contrast ratio of subject is high and the highlighted section area is relatively small.
"SPOTLIGHT" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



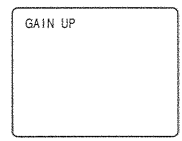
BLC : Backlight compensation mode

Select this mode when recording the subject against a light source brighter than the subject.
"BLC" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



Gain-up mode

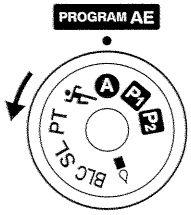
Select this mode when recording a poorly lit subject, such as in a dim room, etc.: The entire image will be recorded brighter.
"GAIN UP" will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



Adjusting Playback Pictures

Turn the dial to adjust the finer details of playback pictures when viewing playback pictures on TV screen or dubbing recorded scenes.

Turn the PROGRAM AE dial in the direction of the arrow to select the playback mode.



A: Play back most pictures in this position.

P1: Luminance hard

P2: Luminance soft

Note: If the PROGRAM AE dial is set to P1 or P2 in the camera mode, the image being recorded will not change.

Note: When you play back tape with the AE dial set to A, PT, SL, BLC or , it will be played back in the normal mode.

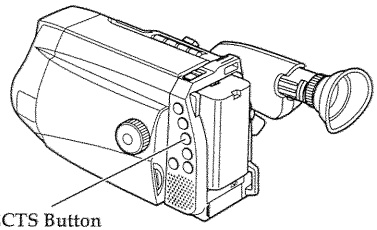
Note: During playback, no mode display will appear in the viewfinder, on the LCD monitor, or on the connected TV.

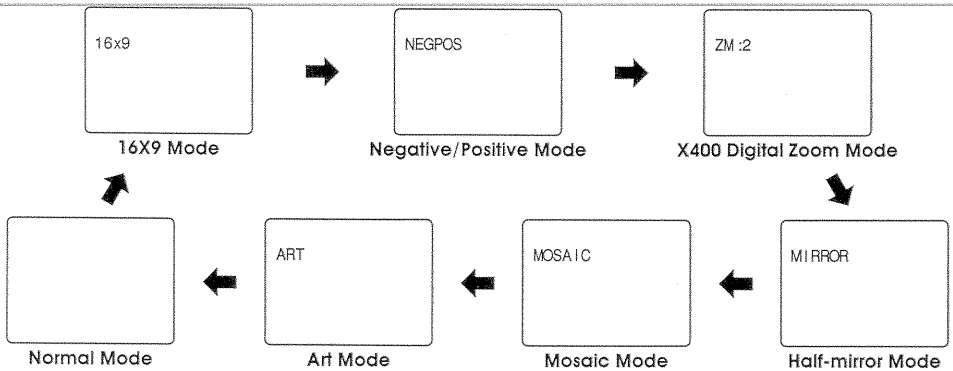
Digital Effects Recording

The digital processor in this camcorder allows you to record picture and add special effects: 16x9 recording mode, a negative image (negative/positive mode), 400 times digital zoom feature (with instant zoom), a symmetric image (obtained by placing a mirror at the center of the screen [half-mirror mode]), an image in mosaic (mosaic mode), and an oil painting look (art mode).

Note: The half-mirror recording and mosaic recording functions cannot be used with digital zoom, instant zoom or image stabilizer function.

- Each time the EFFECTS button is pressed, the recording mode is switched.





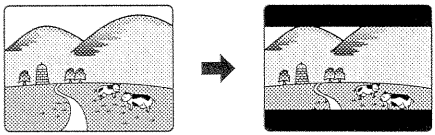
Activating Digital Effects Recording

1 Place the camcorder in the record pause mode.

2 Press the EFFECTS button to select the digital effects record mode you want.

"16x9": 16x9 Mode

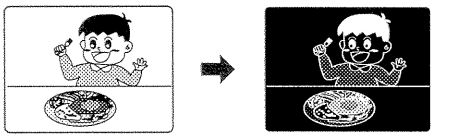
The picture format can be switched from 4:3 (the picture format of an ordinary TV set) to 16x9. The top and bottom of the picture in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor become black bars.



Normal Mode 16X9 Mode

"NEGPOS": Negative/Positive Mode

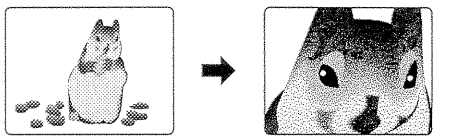
The image in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor will become negative.



Normal Mode Negative/Positive Mode

"ZM:2": x400 Digital Zoom Mode

Slide and hold the power zoom control to the "T" side until you reach your desired magnification.



Normal Mode x400 Digital Zoom Mode

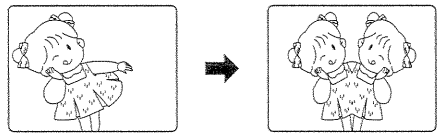
- This function can magnify an image up to 400 times when instant zoom is used at the same time.

"MIRROR": Half-mirror Mode

The image in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor will change to a symmetric image on the left and right, obtained by placing a mirror at the center of the screen.

Note: This function cannot be used with digital zoom, instant zoom or image stabilizer function.

Note: The subject image will be compressed in the horizontal direction and narrow slightly.



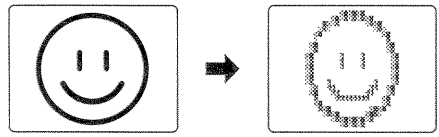
Normal Mode Half-mirror Mode

"MOSAIC": Mosaic Mode

The image in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor will be in mosaic.

Note: This function cannot be used with digital zoom, instant zoom or image stabilizer function.

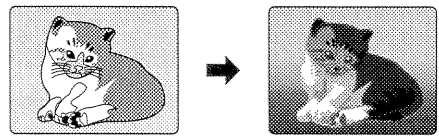
Note: The subject image will be compressed in the horizontal direction and narrow slightly.



Normal Mode Mosaic Mode

"ART": Art Mode

The image in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor will take on the look of an oil painting.



Normal Mode Art Mode

3 Press the Start/Stop button to start recording.

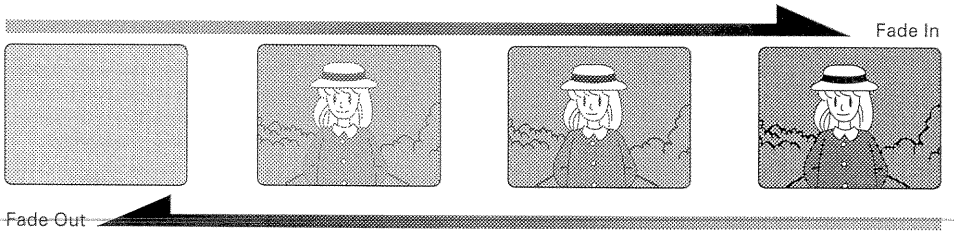
- To release digital effects recording, repeatedly press the EFFECTS button in the record pause mode until the normal mode is restored.

Using Digital Fade

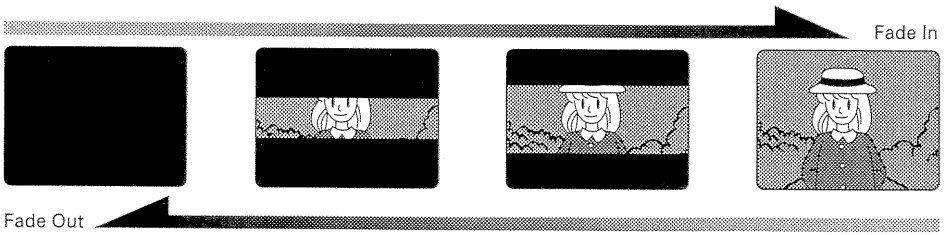
Use the fade feature to add a professional touch to your recordings. Use the FADE button to select one of the six fade options.

Note: If you press the EFFECTS button after setting the fade function, the fade function will be released. After setting the digital effect mode, reset the fade function.

- **White fade:** Fades in from a white screen or fades out to a white screen. "▣" appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.

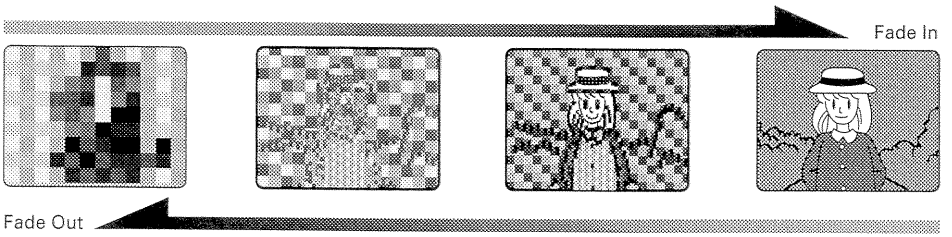


- **Wipe fade:** The picture opens gradually from the center of a black screen or closes into the center to a black screen. "▣" appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.

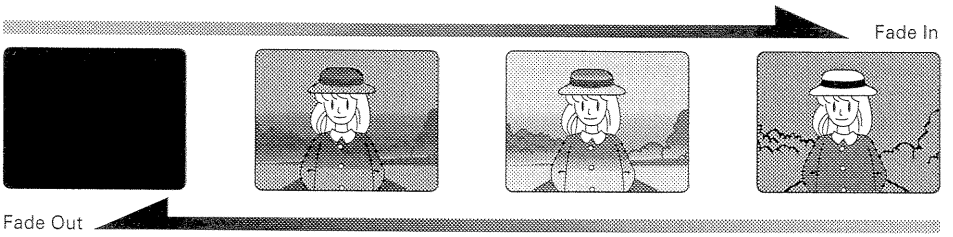


- **Mosaic fade:** Fades in from a picture in mosaic or fades out to a picture in mosaic. "MOS.F" appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.

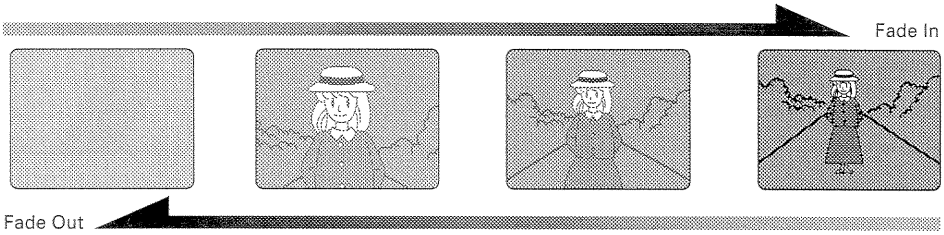
  Note: The subject image, immediately before fading in or out, will be compressed in the horizontal direction and narrow.



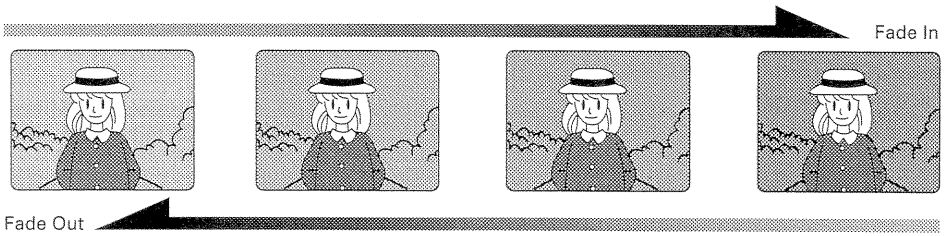
- **Art fade:** Fades in from, or fades out to a picture with the feel of an oil painting. "ART.F" appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.



- **Zoom fade:** Fades in while zooming from a white screen or fades out while zooming to a white screen. " [ ] " appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.



- **Black-and-white fade:** Fades in from a black-and-white screen or fades out to a black-and-white screen. "B/W" appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.



Fading In

1 Use the FADE button to select a fade option before recording.

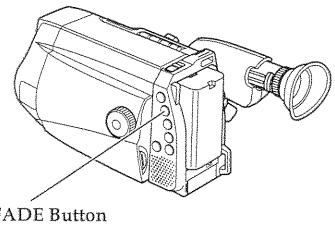
2 Press the Start/Stop button to start recording; fade begins automatically.

Fading Out

1 While recording with the camcorder use the FADE button to select a fade option.

2 Press the Start/Stop button to stop recording; the fade begins automatically and "REC" flashes until the fade ends.

Note: When fading out be sure to wait until the pause indicator (●II) is visible in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor before attempting to put the camcorder into the record mode again.



Using the Electronic Image Stabilizer

The electronic image stabilizer (EIS) corrects slight shaking of the image being recorded and is effective in the following situations.

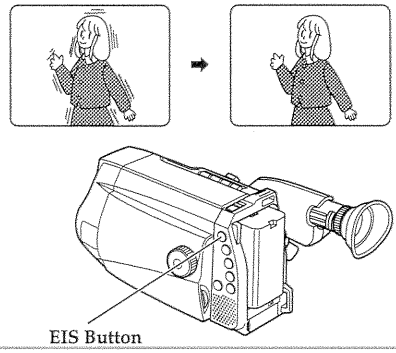
- While you zoom to a distant subject.
- While you approach a small subject.
- While you walk around.
- While you record from inside a moving vehicle.

1 Press the EIS button. The EIS icon appears in the upper left corner of the viewfinder or LCD monitor.

2 Press the Start/Stop button to start recording. When EIS is engaged the viewfinder or LCD monitor image shakes with a slight delay.

Note: EIS may not function if you use a wide or tele converter lens.

Note: It is recommended that you do not use the EIS function when using a tripod. The sensor would detect vibrations from the tripod in which case the picture would be blurred.



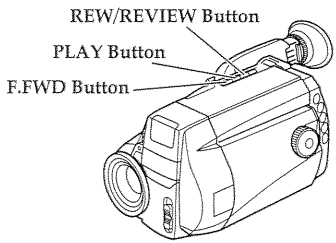
Notes for VM-E555LA

- When the EIS function is engaged in the vicinity of the zoom range with "ZOOM" displayed in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, when moved from the wide-angle end, the image size will change, but this is normal.
- When the EIS function is engaged, the picture becomes rough.
- When the EIS function is engaged, the angle of view at the wide-angle end becomes narrower.

Using Quick Edit

Use quick edit to search for the end of previously recorded material, find a particular spot on your tape, begin editing, or record new material. While the camera is in record/pause mode hold down the F.FWD, REW/REVIEW, or PLAY button and visually search the tape. Release the button and the camcorder stops the tape at the exact position you selected.

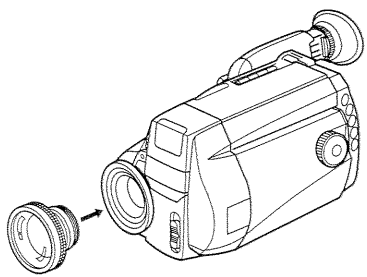
Note: If the F.FWD or REW/REVIEW button is pressed for quick edit, noise will appear in the viewfiner, on the LCD monitor, or on the connected TV.



Attaching the Optional Wide or Tele Converter Lens

Screw the lens into the threads on the camcorder lens assembly.

Note: If the tele-conversion lens (optional) is attached over the lens, the four corners of the image will be missing in the wide-angle position. Use zoom in the telephoto position.



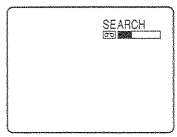
Date Search

The date search function memorizes the start and end positions of recordings you made on a specific day so you can easily locate those positions later as long as the cassette is left in the camcorder.

Note: Be sure that the date and time are set.

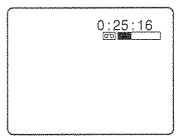
1 Attach a power source and slide the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to VIDEO.

2 Press the DATE/DISP. button (the DISPLAY button on the remote control) to display "SEARCH" in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



3 Press the REW/REVIEW button to search for the start position from which you last made a recording or the F.FWD button to recording end position. " ◀◀ SEARCH" will appear while the start position is being searched for; "SEARCH ▶▶", while the end position is being searched for.

4 When the required position is located, the camcorder enters the stop mode and "SEARCH" disappears from the viewfinder or LCD monitor.



Note: If you have ejected the cassette, this function will not operate with that cassette. (When a cassette is inserted and the recording is started, the position is identified as the recording start position on that day.)

Note: If the clock battery is not inserted, the date search function does not operate when the battery providing the power to the camcorder is removed.

Note: When the cassette was recorded by another camcorder, the date search function does not operate.

Note: The date search function is released when you press the STOP button during date search mode.

Note: If the recorded time is less than 30 seconds, the date search function may not operate normally.

Using Memory

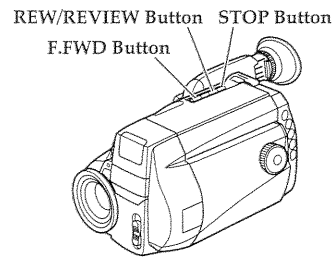
The linear time counter memory stops a rewinding tape at approximately "0:00:00M". This feature helps in locating a specific point in the tape to which you wish to return. An example might be that you have recorded some tape that you have already watched, you continue recording but do not care to watch the tape you recorded earlier. The memory feature returns you to the beginning of the most recent recording.

1 Start recording or playback of a cassette. Press the COUNTER RESET button on the remote control at the point to which you wish to return. The linear time counter clears to "0:00:00".

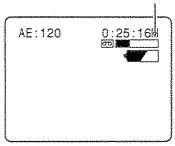
2 Press the STOP button to stop playback, or press the start/stop button recording and set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to VIDEO.

3 Press the DISPLAY button on the remote control so the linear time counter with memory is displayed as shown in the figure.

4 Press the REW/REVIEW button and the tape stops at approximately where you reset the linear time counter. This feature works in F.FWD as well.

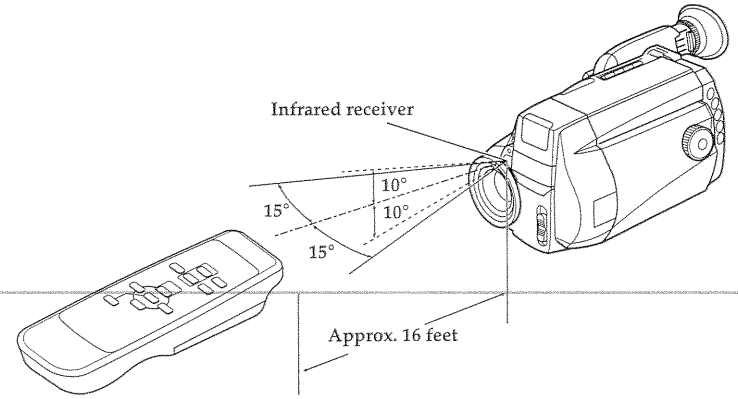


Linear time counter with memory



Using the Wireless Remote Control

Use the wireless remote control to operate the camcorder from a distance. The PLAY, F.FWD, REW, STOP, PAUSE (START/STOP) and ZOOM buttons on the wireless remote control operate the functions of the corresponding buttons on the camcorder. Aim the wireless remote control at the infrared receiver of the camcorder.



Note: Use the wireless remote control within the range of the infrared receiver of the camcorder shown above.

Note: The wireless remote control may not function in strong light such as direct sunlight or very bright artificial lighting.

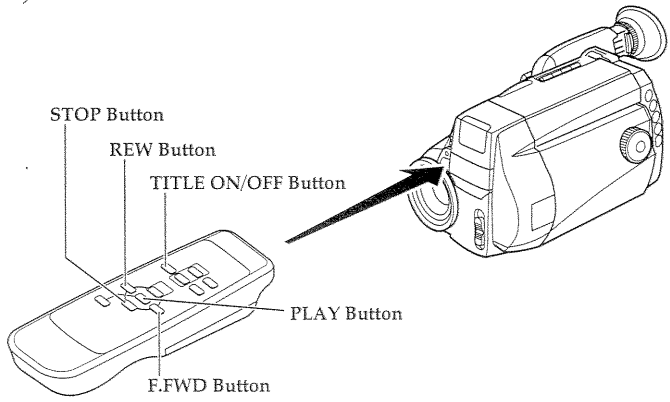
Note: Clear a direct path from the wireless remote control to the infrared receiver. The wireless remote control won't work if an obstacle blocks the infrared rays.

Note: The remote control code of this camcorder is Hitachi code VCR2. If you have a VCR with the same code your Hitachi VCR may malfunction when you use the camcorder's wireless remote control.

Creating and Recording a Title

The titling function allows you to select one of nine titles stored in camcorder memory, or create a new title, and record it. You can choose from three languages to display the stored titles: English, French and Spanish. Select or create a title and personalize your recordings, while at the same time keeping a permanent visual record of what is contained on a tape.

When creating and recording a title, use the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control. (When creating a title in the CAM mode, the DATE/DISP. button of the camcorder can be used instead of the TITLE ON /OFF button on the remote control. "◷ TITLE" should be displayed in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor at this time).



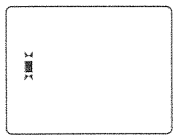
Selecting Stored Title (Prememo)

Note: Be sure to insert the clock battery before selecting a title. Although a title can be chosen without the clock battery inserted, it will disappear when the battery providing power to the camcorder is removed.

1 Connect the camcorder to a power source.

2 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch and slide it to either CAM or VIDEO.

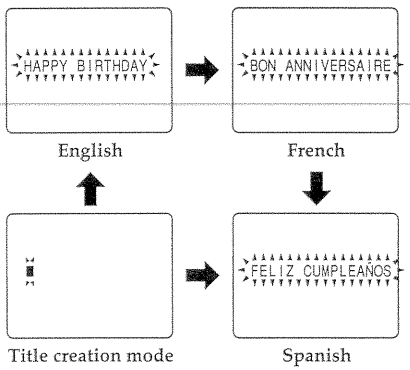
3 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control.
A flashing cursor will appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, and the camcorder will enter the title creating mode ("Creating a Title" on next page).



4 Press the PLAY button.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" will appear.

You can choose the desired language of the displayed title by pressing the PLAY button, as in the following order:



5 Use the F.FWD or REW button to select a desired title.

Stored titles (Prememo) available

<English>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
CONGRATULATIONS
THE SUPERSTAR
VACATION FUN
THANKSGIVING
HAPPY EASTER
ANNIVERSARY
HAPPY NEW YEAR

<French>

BON ANNIVERSAIRE
JOYEUX NOEL
FELICITATIONS
"SUPERSTAR"
VACANCES
"THANKSGIVING"
JOYEUSES PAQUES
ANNIVERSAIRE
BONNE ANNEE

<Spanish>

FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS
FELICIDADES
EL PROTAGONISTA
FELIZ NAVIDAD
VACACIONES
ANIVERSARIO
FELIZ AÑO NUEVO
SEMANA SANTA
FIESTA

6 After you have selected the title, press the TITLE ON/OFF button.
The selected title will be stored in memory and then disappear.

Creating a Title

A title contains two lines of up to 16 characters per line. The camcorder contains 79 different characters for creating a title.

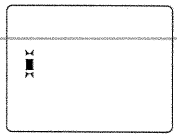
Note: Be sure to insert the clock battery before creating a title. Although a title can be created without the clock battery inserted, it will disappear when the battery providing power to the camcorder is removed.

1 Connect the camcorder to a power source.

2 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch and slide it to either CAM or VIDEO.

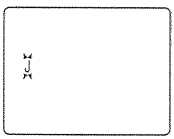
3 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control and a flashing cursor appears in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.

Note: If a stored title appears, press the PLAY button to display the screen for creating a title.

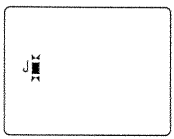


4 Use the STOP button to place the cursor where you wish to begin your title.

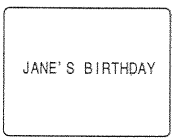
5 Use the F.FWD and REW buttons to select the first character of your title.



6 Once you've selected a character press the STOP button to set it.



7 Complete the title by repeating steps 5 and 6.



8 When you complete your title, press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control to store the title in memory and remove the title graphics from the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.

Note: As long as the correct current time can be displayed, the title is held in memory.

Characters available for your title

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	0	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	?	'	.	/	,	-	+	:	<	>	!	Ä
Ë	Ï	Ö	Ü	Â	Ê	Î	Ô	Û	Á	É	Í	Ó	Ú	À	È
Ù	Ñ	Ç	Æ	Œ	Ø	¿	¡	Å	$	₣	DM	£	¥	"	␣

Space

Correcting Errors

1 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control.

2 Use the STOP button to select the character to be corrected.

3 Use the F.FWD and REW buttons to correct the character.

4 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control to store the corrected title in memory.

Recording Title on a Tape in the Camcorder

1 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to CAM.

2 Locate the point of the tape where you wish to record the title ("Using Quick Edit," p50).

3 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control.

4 Use the PLAY button to select the title (the title you have created or the existing title in camcorder you have memorized on page 53) you wish to record.

5 Press the Start/Stop button to start recording the title.

6 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control to stop recording the title. The title graphics disappear from the viewfinder or LCD monitor and the camcorder can record normally.

Note: Create and store your title before an event you plan to record. Just press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control to superimpose the title over the scene as you record it. This method avoids erasing previously recorded material which will happen when you record a title on a previously recorded tape.

Recording a Title while Transferring a Tape

1 Connect the camcorder to the VCR (p56).

2 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control to turn title on.

3 Use the PLAY button to select the title from memory.

4 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button to turn title off.

5 Turn on the VCR and set it to record. Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to VIDEO. Press PLAY on the camcorder.

6 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control at the point on the tape where you wish to record the title.

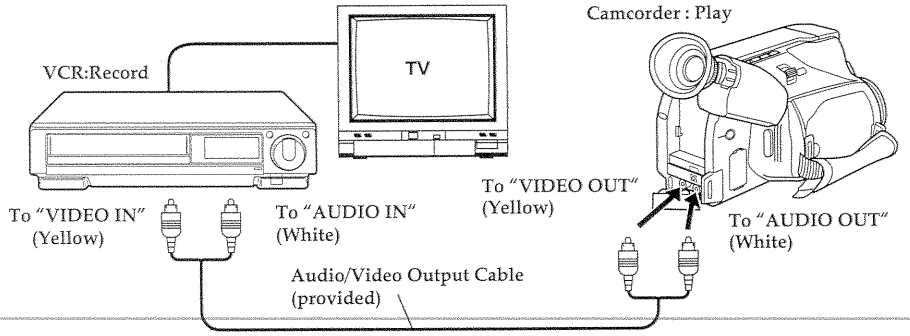
7 Press the TITLE ON/OFF button on the remote control again to stop recording the title.

Note: Recording the title during tape transfer will erase a portion of your recorded material.

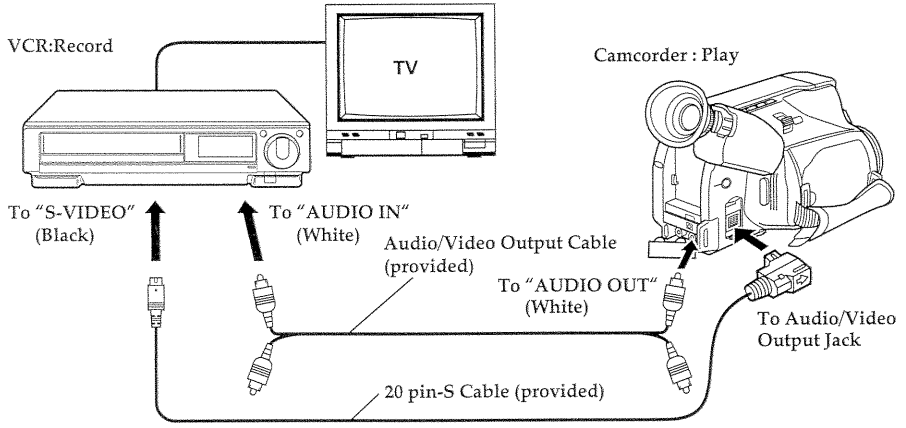
Dubbing from the Camcorder to a VCR

Connect the camcorder to a VCR to copy your or a friend's home 8mm recordings to VHS.

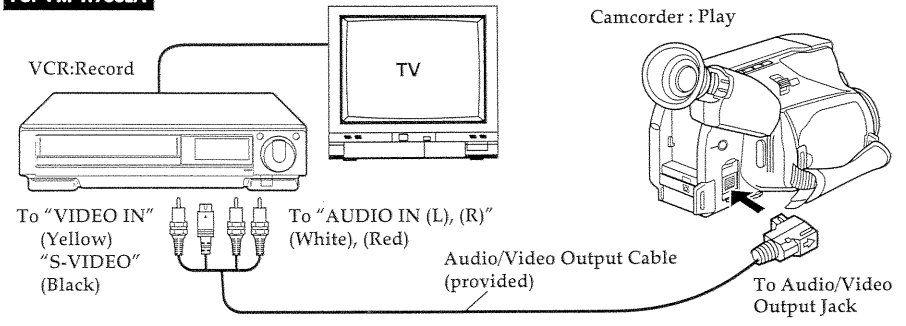
For VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA



For VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: When using the provided 20 pin-S cable



For VM-H955LA



1 Connect your camcorder to the VCR, following "Playing Back Your Recording on Your TV" on page 34.

2 Turn on your VCR and place it in the camcorder input mode (consult your VCR manual for details). Operate the television as you normally do to see the signal coming from the VCR.

3 Hold down the red button of the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while you slide the switch to VIDEO.

4 Insert the recorded tape in the camcorder and a blank tape into the VCR. Set the VCR to record.

5 Play the tape from the camcorder while recording on the VCR.

Note: If the VCR is connected to a television and the VCR/TV selector is set to VCR, you can monitor the tape being dubbed.

Note: Reduce the volume of the camcorder as low as possible during dubbing. Otherwise the played back pictures could be distorted.

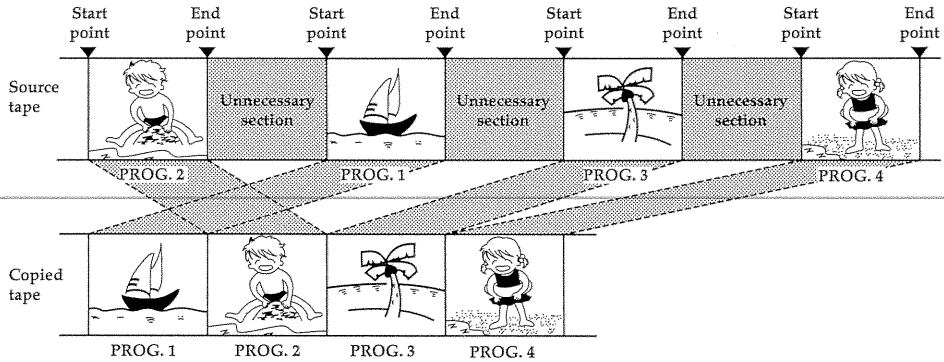
Note: During multi playback (PAL60 output), dubbing may not be possible with some VCRs.

Simple Programmable Edit (Edit remote control is optional accessory)

Simple programmable edit allows you to program your camcorder to select the scenes you want to copy from a pre-recorded tape. Use the edit remote control (optional) to easily copy scenes from a recorded tape in the camcorder (playback machine) onto a blank tape in a table-top VCR which handles infrared remote signals (recording machine).

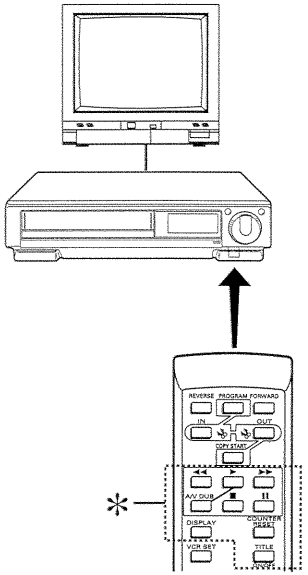
Note: Only the VM-RM20EDA edit remote control (optional) can be used with this camcorder.

Note: Some VCRs cannot be operated by the edit remote control (optional).



Programming the Remote Control for the VCR

It is necessary to program the edit remote control code to match the VCR before starting editing.



VCR Brands	Press VCR SET and This Button
Hitachi	REVERSE
Sony	PROGRAM
Panasonic	FORWARD
Toshiba	IN
Mitsubishi	COPY START
Sanyo	OUT
Sharp	◀◀
NEC	▶
JVC	▶▶
Akai	A/V DUB
Gold Star	■
PHILIPS	II
RCA	DISPLAY
Zenith	COUNTER RESET
Magnavox	TITLE ON/OFF

1 Turn the VCR on.

2 Aim the remote control at the infrared receiver on the VCR and press the VCR SET button on the remote control and hold it, then press the button corresponding to the VCR's maker code. For example, if you have a RCA VCR, press the VCR SET button and hold it, then press the DISPLAY button. To check whether the remote control code matches that of your VCR or not, point the remote control at the infrared receiver on the VCR and press the VCR SET button and hold it. If the remote control code has been set, the VCR channel is counted up automatically.

Note: Your VCR should have an infrared remote control.

Note: If the channel on the VCR does not change with the above operation, you need to switch the remote control code of your VCR. Refer to the VCR's instruction manual. If the channel still does not change after you have changed the VCR's remote control code, the edit remote control cannot operate your VCR.

Note: The remote control code is held in memory until it is changed or the batteries are replaced.

Note: Point the remote control straight at the VCR's infrared receiver for operation.

Note: Use the remote control indoors. When the infrared receivers of the VCR and camcorder are exposed to direct sunlight or strong artificial light, the remote control may not operate correctly.

Note: The remote control cannot be operated if there is an obstacle between the remote control and infrared receiver. Especially, be careful of this during dubbing.

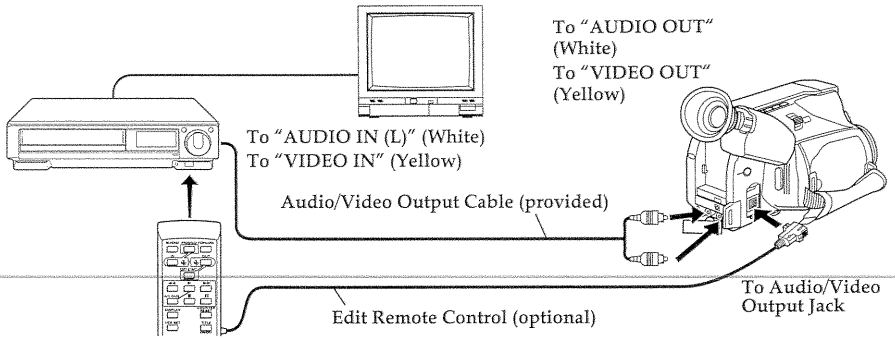
Note: When the edit remote control is connected to the camcorder, the buttons marked * in the figure above perform the same operations as those of the other remote control provided.

Operation

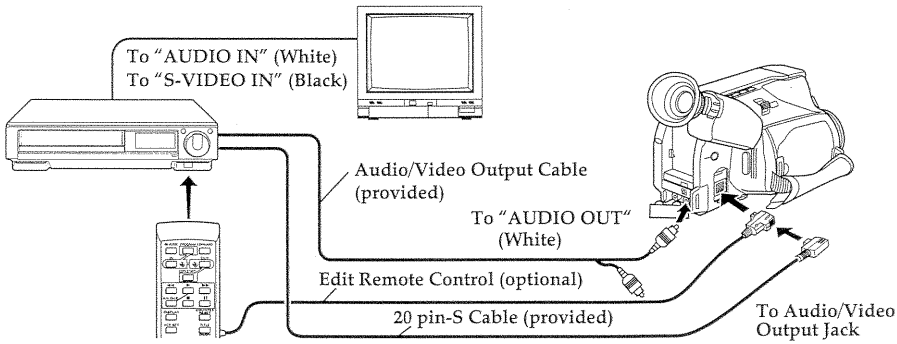
You can select up to four different scenes or segments to be copied at one time.

Note: If sunlight or strong artificial light strikes the camcorder's infrared receiver, the editing operation may not be possible.

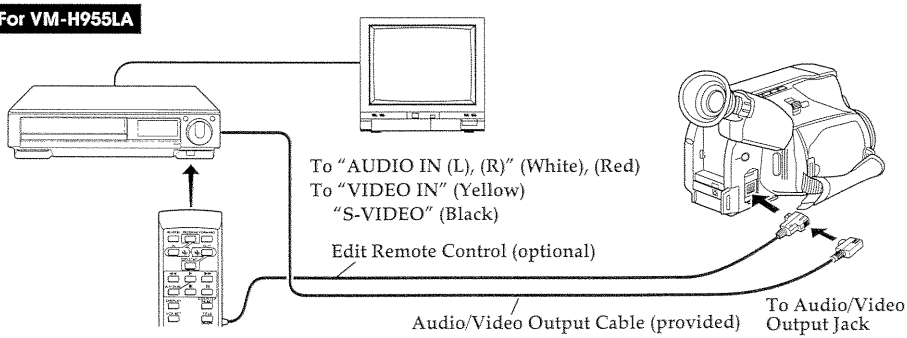
For VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA


To "AUDIO OUT" (White)
To "VIDEO OUT" (Yellow)
To "AUDIO IN (L)" (White)
To "VIDEO IN" (Yellow)
Audio/Video Output Cable (provided)
To Audio/Video Output Jack
Edit Remote Control (optional)

For VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: When using the provided 20 pin-S cable


To "AUDIO IN" (White)
To "S-VIDEO IN" (Black)
Audio/Video Output Cable (provided)
To "AUDIO OUT" (White)
Edit Remote Control (optional)
20 pin-S Cable (provided)
To Audio/Video Output Jack

For VM-H955LA


To "AUDIO IN (L), (R)" (White), (Red)
To "VIDEO IN" (Yellow)
"S-VIDEO" (Black)
Edit Remote Control (optional)
Audio/Video Output Cable (provided)
To Audio/Video Output Jack

1 Connect the edit remote control to the camcorder, and then connect the audio/video output cable as illustrated above.

Note for VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: If your VCR has two (stereo) AUDIO IN jacks, connect the audio plug to the left-channel AUDIO IN jack.

Note for VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA: Some VCRs have an S-VIDEO IN jack. Connect the provided 20 pin-S cable instead of the yellow VIDEO plug as illustrated.

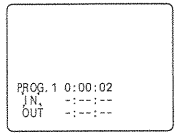
Notes for VM-H955LA

- Connect either right or left audio plug into your VCR if it has only one AUDIO IN jack.
- Some VCRs have an S-VIDEO IN jack. Connect the black S-VIDEO plug to the VCR instead of the yellow VIDEO plug.
- If you use a generally available audio/video cable in place of the provided Audio/Video output cable with the connection shown above, unplug the provided cable from the Audio/Video output jack of the camcorder.

2 Insert a recorded tape into the camcorder.

3 Set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch of the camcorder to VIDEO.
Turn the recording VCR on and select line input.

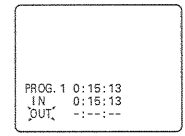
4 Press the PROGRAM button of the remote control. The program display appears in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.



Note: If your VCR is connected to a TV, the program display will also appear on the TV screen.

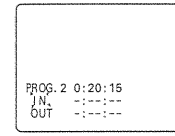
5 Press the ▶ button and use the ▶▶ or ◀◀ button to search for the starting point of the segment you want to copy. Press ▶ and then ❚❚ to set the camcorder to the play pause mode.
The liner time counter counts when searching for the starting point.
Use the FORWARD and REVERSE buttons in the play or pause mode to fine adjust the tape position. Press FORWARD and hold it; the tape is played while the button is held. Press REVERSE and hold it for reverse play.

6 Press the IN button to store the counter reading. When you press the IN button, OUT flashes in the program display.



7 Press the ▶▶ button to search for the end of the segment you want to copy. Press ▶ and then ❚❚ to set the camcorder to the play pause mode. Use the FORWARD or REVERSE button as required to fine adjust the tape position.

8 Press the OUT button to store the counter reading at the end of the scene.



9 Continue programming as described above until you have entered up to four different segments.

10 Load a blank tape, then set the VCR to the record pause mode.

11 Point the remote control at the receiver on the VCR and press the COPY START button to start simple programmable edit.

- The camcorder automatically searches for the beginning of the first segment and starts playback. The recording VCR automatically starts recording.
- After recording the first segment, the camcorder automatically searches for the beginning of the next segment and resumes playback. The recording VCR is automatically released from the record pause mode and resumes recording.
- It continues recording and pausing until all the programmed segments are edited.

(Continued on next page)

12 When simple programmable edit is finished, the camcorder will enter the stop mode, and the VCR will enter the record pause mode.

Note: If you make a mistake during programming, start again from the beginning or press the COUNTER RESET button to return to the previous steps one by one and enter the correct program data.

Note: After the simple programmable edit is finished, the programmed data is erased. If you want to continue editing other segments, repeat steps 5 – 12.

Note: Most VCRs (recording machine) may be released from the record pause mode if it continues for more than five minutes.

Note: The dubbing start and end positions may slightly drift from the specified positions when certain VCRs are used.

Note: Reduce the volume of the camcorder as low as possible during dubbing. Otherwise the played back pictures could be distorted.

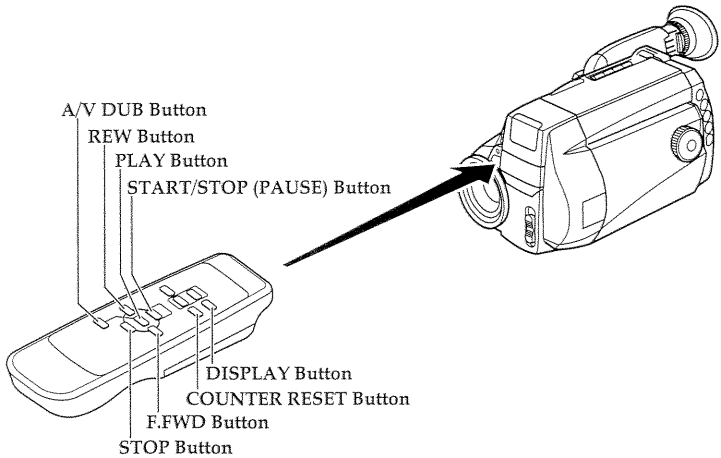
To End Programmable Simple Edit

Press the PROGRAM button to remove the program display from the viewfinder or LCD monitor. Then press the stop button on the recording VCR to set it to the stop mode.

Note: If the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch of the camcorder is set to OFF or CAM when the recording VCR is in the record pause mode, the VCR enters the record mode.

Using Audio/Video Dubbing

Use audio/video dubbing to record audio and video from the camcorder's built-in microphone and camera onto a previously recorded tape in the camcorder.



1 Hold down the red button on the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch while sliding the switch to VIDEO.

2 Insert a previously recorded tape in the camcorder.

3 Use the wireless remote control and press the PLAY button. Use the PLAY, F.FWD, and REW buttons to find the place where you want to stop dubbing. Press the START/STOP (PAUSE) button.

4 Display the linear time counter with memory ("Using Memory," p51). Press the COUNTER RESET button to set the linear time counter to "0:00:00M".

5 Use the REW and PLAY buttons to find where you wish to start dubbing. Press the START/STOP (PAUSE) button.

6 Place the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to CAM position. The record pause indicator "●II" appears and the camcorder is ready to record.

7 Press and hold the A/V DUB button, then press PLAY. This places the camcorder A/V DUB pause mode. "●II" disappears replaced by "A/V DUB II".

8 Press the start/stop button on the camcorder or START/STOP (PAUSE) on the remote control. The audio/video dubbing starts. When the linear time counter reaches "0:00:00M" the camcorder stops automatically, recording only the portion of the tape that you selected.

Note: If the camcorder is in AV DUB pause or STILL mode for more than 5 minutes, the camcorder stops automatically to protect the tape.

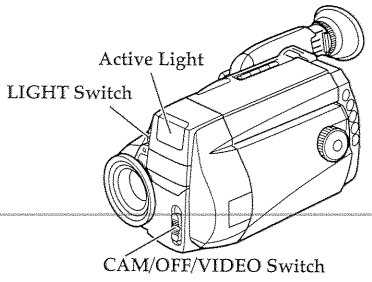
Note: When the audio/video dubbed portion is played back, noise may appear at the end of the dubbed portion.

Using the Active Light (only for VM-H855LA/ VM-H955LA)

Use the active light if you wish to shoot objects in dark places.

When the LIGHT switch is set to "AUTO", the active light turns on automatically when the camcorder is pointed at objects in a dark place and turns off when it is pointed at objects in a bright place.

CAUTION: Since the power consumption of the active light is high, the camcorder operating time will decrease even with a fully charged battery.



1 Make sure that a fully charged battery pack is attached.

2 Set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to CAM and then set the LIGHT switch to AUTO when required.

Note: When the LIGHT switch is set to ON, the active light will turn on whenever you make a recording.

Note: If the LIGHT switch is set to AUTO, the active light may not turn on immediately.

Note: If the active light turns on for more than 5 minutes with the light switch set to "AUTO" or "ON", when the camcorder is in the record pause mode, the camcorder and light will automatically turn off. In such a case, turn the camcorder on again.

Note: If the LIGHT switch is set to AUTO and the camcorder is pointed at a white subject with high reflectivity in a dark place from a short distance, the active light may turn on or off. In this case, set the LIGHT switch to ON.

Note: The active light will turn off during quick edit or review, even if you have manually turned on the light.

Note: The active light will not turn on when the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch is set to VIDEO.

Note: If there is no cassette in the camcorder, or if a recording prevented cassette is inserted with the active light switch set to AUTO, the light will automatically go out after 5 minutes.

CAUTION: Turn the active light on only when you need it, otherwise the operating time of the battery pack is shortened due to the power consumption of the active light.

CAUTION: Do not hold the unit by the active light when carrying as this could cause a malfunction.

3 After use, set the LIGHT switch to OFF or set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch of the camcorder to OFF position.

CAUTIONS:

- During operation and/or after use of the active light, the front surface and lamp of the light will be very hot. To avoid burns or hair damage, do not touch them with your hand.
- When the active light is on, do not allow water to drop on the light.
- When the active light is on, avoid subjecting the light to impacts or sharp vibrations.
- Do not allow the cooling vents to become blocked. Also, do not cover the active light with paper or other objects, since the air flow will be interrupted, resulting in possible overheating hazard.
- Never use the active light in the vicinity of explosive or highly inflammable materials.
- After using the active light, cool the light section sufficiently before storing the camcorder in the case.
- The lamp can only be replaced by a service engineer; If the lamp has blown, consult your nearest service center.

Demonstration Mode

This camcorder is equipped with a demonstration mode. If you leave the powered camcorder for 10 minutes without a cassette inserted when the date has not been set or the clock battery is dead, the camcorder demonstration mode will start.

To cancel the demonstration mode

- Disconnect power from camcorder and reconnect it.
- Insert a cassette.

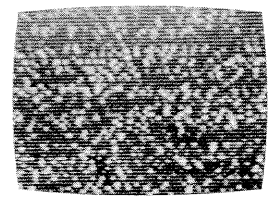
If you do not want the camcorder to enter the demonstration mode, set the date beforehand.

General Maintenance

Cleaning the Camcorder Heads

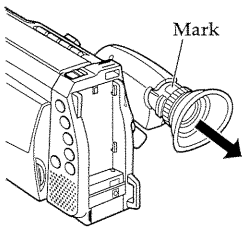
Dirt can accumulate on the video heads on the camcorder causing the playback picture to become blurred or appear as if video information is lost. This often means that the video heads are dirty. Use a video head cleaner such as a dry type head cleaning tape to clean the heads.

If after cleaning the heads the picture does not clear up consult your nearest dealer or VCR service center for professional head cleaning.

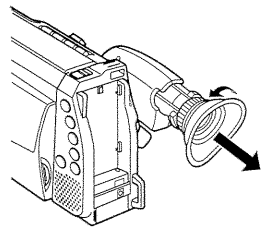


Cleaning the Lens and Picture Tube of the Electronic Viewfinder

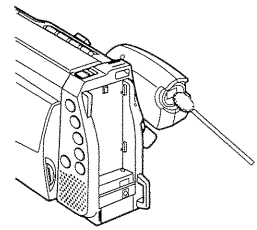
The lens of the electronic viewfinder can be user-cleaned if dust, dirt, or other foreign matter adheres to it.



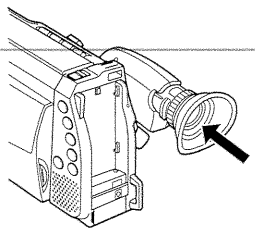
1 Pull out the eye cup to the position where a mark can be seen (up to a half where it is pulled out all the way). The side with the mark should be up.



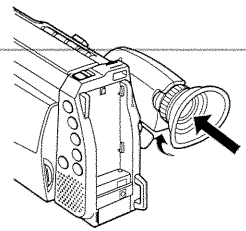
2 Turn the eye cup counterclockwise until it stops, then pull it out to remove.



3 Clean the picture tube face and lens. To prevent scratching, use a soft non-abrasive cloth, swab or lens cleaning paper.



4 Face the rib up as shown above and push the eye cup in until it stops.



5 Turn the eye cup clockwise until it stops, then push it in all the way.

Periodic Maintenance

A precision electromechanical device, the Hitachi VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA requires maintenance after a period of normal use. We expect that no maintenance other than head cleaning will be required during the period of warranty unless the camcorder is used either heavily or seldom. Defective parts are covered by the warranty. Normal maintenance is the responsibility of the owner. Consult your dealer or local VCR service center for recommendations regarding normal maintenance based on your use patterns, location, and the age of the camcorder.

Troubleshooting

Quality is very important at Hitachi. We inspect and check every camcorder carefully at the factory under the most rigid quality control and inspection systems. If problems develop please check the following possible solutions before inquiring about professional service.

INSERTING OR REMOVING THE CASSETTE

Symptom	Check Point & Correction
Cassette holder cannot be opened when you press the EJECT button.	• Connect the power source.
Cassette cannot be inserted into cassette compartment.	• Load cassette in direction indicated by arrow on cassette.
	• Cassette window must be toward outside.

CAMERA RECORDING

Symptom	Check Point & Correction
Picture does not appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.	• Slide the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to CAM.
The camcorder cannot go into the recording mode, even when the Start/Stop button is pressed.	• Check the record-protect tab on the cassette. See page 20 for details.
	• Slide the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to CAM.
Picture is out of focus. Auto-focus does not operate.	• Make sure that "FOCUS" does not appear in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor. If it is displayed, press FOCUS/VOL. control buttons to erase it.
	• Auto-Focus does not operate if a special-effects filter is attached or the objects shown on page 29 are being recorded.
The created title does not appear.	• Insert the clock battery, then create a title.
	• Do not remove the clock battery after creating a title.
	• When the stored title (prememo) is displayed in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, press the PLAY button.

PLAYBACK OF PRERECORDED CASSETTE

Symptom	Check Point & Correction
The PLAY button cannot be engaged.	• Set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to VIDEO.
No picture appears on television screen when The PLAY button is pressed. (TV is connected to the camcorder by using RF converter unit.)	• Set the television to the camcorder channel (3 or 4) depending upon the selected channel in the RF channel select switch of RF converter unit.
Interference on playback picture. (TV is connected to the camcorder by using RF converter unit.)	• When you see the playback picture on your TV, adjust fine tuning knob on television set to obtain best picture.
Picture bends at the top of TV screen.	• TV receiver is of older type. It needs to be modified to work properly with camcorder.
	• Tape is damaged. Try another cassette.
Color of your TV screen is too bright, too faint or change.	• TV set has VIR circuit. Turn it off during playback.
Date search function does not operate.	• Slide the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to VIDEO.
	• Insert the clock battery, set the date and time, then start recording.
	• Do not remove the clock battery after recording.
	• Do not eject the recorded cassette. Leave it in the camcorder.

BATTERY CONDITION

Symptom	Check Point & Correction
The (▬) indication in the electronic viewfinder or on the LCD monitor flashes to indicate battery is discharged.	• Try another battery or charge the battery.
The battery level indicator (▭) appears differently on the LCD monitor and in the viewfinder.	• This does not indicate a fault; it is because the power consumed by the LCD monitor and viewfinder is different.

NO OPERATION IS ACCEPTED

Symptom	Check Point & Correction
Power is turned on, but no button operations are accepted.	• Remove the power source and the clock battery. And after about one minute, the display in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor will be reset. Then set the information again.

TAPE DISPLAY

Symptom	Check Point & Correction
"TAPE" appears in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor.	• Have you moved the camcorder or cassette from a cold place to a warm place so that its temperature changed abruptly? If the temperature has changed, remove the cassette and set the CAM/OFF/VIDEO switch to OFF, then wait for about one hour.
	• Remove the cassette and then try to reinsert: remove it several times. If the indication is still shown in the viewfinder or on the LCD monitor, use a cleaning tape to clean the heads and replace the cassette.

Specifications

General Specifications

Power requirements	7.2V DC
Power consumption	VM-E555LA: 3.4W (when recording/LCD monitor OFF) 4.3W (when recording/LCD monitor ON) VM-H755LA: 3.5W (when recording/LCD monitor OFF) 4.6W (when recording/LCD monitor ON) VM-H855LA: 3.8W (when recording/LCD monitor OFF) 5.0W (when recording/LCD monitor ON) VM-H955LA: 4.1W (when recording/LCD monitor OFF) 5.1W (when recording/LCD monitor ON)
Dimensions	4-11/16" W x 4-1/16" H x 7-1/8" D (118.5 mm x 102.5 mm x 181 mm)
Weight	VM-E555LA: 1.87 lbs (approx. 850g) without battery pack and cassette VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA: 1.94 lbs (approx. 880g) without battery pack and cassette
Operating temperature	32°F ~ 104°F (0°C ~ 40°C)
Storage temperature	–4°F ~ 140°F (–20°C ~ 60°C)

Video Recorder Specifications

Format	8 mm
Record/playback	Two video record/playback heads
Video signal	EIA standard NTSC color
Tape speed	14.3 mm/sec
Video output	1.0 Vp-p, 75 ohm
Audio output	–7.8 dBs (316mVrms)
Fast forward/rewind time	Less than 8 minutes with P6-120 cassette

Camera Specifications

Scanning	525 lines/60 fields/30 frames
Required minimum illumination	0.5 lux
Pickup device	1/4" C.C.D.
Lens	F1.6 - 3.8 (4 ~ 88 mm) 22:1 power zoom lens with auto focus and auto iris functions
Lens diameter	46 mm

For U.S.A. only

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Hitachi has made every effort to assure you hours of trouble free operation from your unit. However, should you require service, a network of Hitachi Authorized Service Facilities has been established in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Each facility will provide you with convenient and expedient assistance. Our service "Hotline" operator will direct you to the Hitachi Authorized Service Facility nearest you. Just present proof of purchase and/or delivery receipts to the Hitachi Authorized Service Facility and service will be rendered in accordance with the terms of the limited warranty as stated on your warranty card or operating guide.

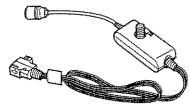
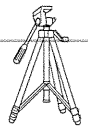
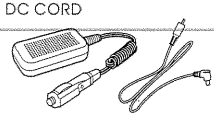
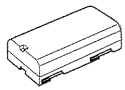
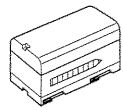
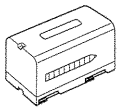
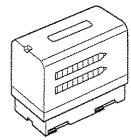
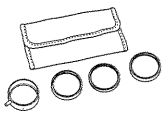
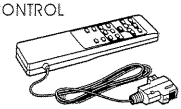
Should you have any questions regarding in-warranty service, operation or technical assistance, please contact:

Hitachi Home Electronics (America), Inc.
1855 Dornoch Court,
San Diego, California 92173
Tel 619-661-3441

Accessories Add Excitement

We know that once you discover how much your Hitachi VM-E555LA/VM-H755LA/VM-H855LA/VM-H955LA can add to your life you will want to use these accessories for even more excitement. Converter lenses and car cords are just a few of the matching accessories available to you from Hitachi. Hitachi takes you to wherever your imagination leads.

Available Accessories

PARTS NO.	APPEARANCE	PURPOSE	PARTS NO.	APPEARANCE	PURPOSE
P6-120SRG	CASSETTE TAPE		VM-RF86A(R)	RF CONVERTER UNIT 	To connect your camcorder to a television with RF antenna connector.
SVA50	TRIPOD 	Stationary shooting unit for mounting camcorder	VM-CC80A KIT	CAR BATTERY CORD DC CORD 	Dc power source for camcorder using cigarette lighter socket
VM-BPL13		Rechargeable Li-ion battery (1350mAh Type)	VM-BPL27		Rechargeable Li-ion battery (2700mAh Type)
VM-BPL30		Rechargeable Li-ion battery (3000mAh Type)	VM-BPL60		Rechargeable Li-ion battery (6000mAh Type)
VM-FL60K	FILTER KIT 	Filters for special effects	VM-FL46K	FILTER KIT	Filters and lens pieces for ND filter and MC protector
VM-CL12TW	CONVERSION LENS SET	Add on lenses for telephoto (1.4) & wide angle (0.7) viewing.	VM-RM20EDA	EDIT REMOTE CONTROL 	Connect to the camcorder for dubbing on a tape in any VCR which can respond to the remote control.

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By Phone

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1-800-995-4500

In Canada - Please use Canadian order form in French version of this manual - Page 71.

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